

مجدد من الاصل

# THE TIMES

30P

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## Blair to hold ballot on manifesto

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

Mr Blair disclosed yesterday that all 365,000 members would be consulted next autumn in a referendum on a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government. The manifesto will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

The paper will not include detailed tax proposals — to be

Party members asked for approval in attempt to curb dissidents

unveiled just before a general election — but any spending pledges will be costed alongside plans to switch resources from existing programmes.

Mr Blair is determined to go into the campaign with a clear party mandate for the controversial policies he has introduced in his efforts to modernise the party. He hopes that mass support for the plans will bind the party together and protect him from damaging recriminations should he win power.

Previous Labour governments, including the Callaghan adminis-

tration after the winter of discontent in 1979, were brought down because they could not satisfy the demands of the unions and activists and Mr Blair is determined to prevent a repeat.

The referendum is one of the biggest consultation exercises ever mounted, mirroring last year's Clause Four ballot when Mr Blair won resounding backing for his plans to change the party's constitution.

Each member will be able to vote for or against the document, but there will be no provision to amend

parts of the manifesto. Trade unionists will not be balloted unless they are full party members, and the exercise will inevitably be seen as another attempt to limit the powers of the unions even though they will be able to vote on the programme at this year's party conference. Some union leaders yesterday derided the ballot as irrelevant.

But the idea has the overwhelming support of the party's national executive and Mr Blair said: "For the first time a political party will be entering a general election with

its programme for government voted upon by its party members.

"This will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government. It will nail forever any doubt that we are anything other than new Labour."

He was speaking at the launch of a document, *The Road to the Manifesto*, outlining the four main pillars on which policy will be built: economic opportunity in a world of increasing insecurity; a one-nation society with a reformed welfare state; political change with de-

veloped power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

Over the past year Mr Blair has presided over a number of policy changes, including plans to withdraw benefit from workshy youngsters, a retreat from plans for a mandatory training levy and a softening of the party's opposition to grant-maintained schools and GP fundholding.

Many of these are to be detailed in separate policy papers, which will be culled in June to form the basis of the early manifesto draft that will go to the party conference

in October and the national ballot a few weeks later.

Leadership sources are confident that Mr Blair will get backing for the programme, but they are worried that there could be a low turnout in the referendum. They believe that at least 70 per cent of members need to take part, with a high vote in favour, for Mr Blair to be able to claim a mandate.

While a defeat is unlikely, some MPs expressed concern that the ballot will be on the combined policies, rather than individual proposals, which could prompt members to reject the package.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Peter Riddell and Diary, page 20

### Support for Tories firm in spite of BSE row

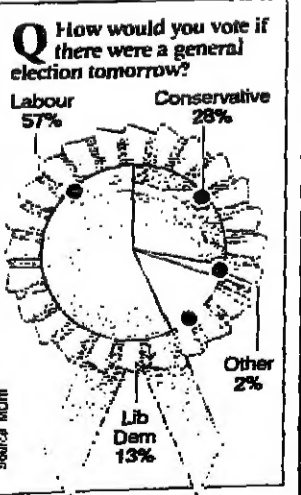
By PETER RIDDELL

SUPPORT for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, shows that the Tories are now on 28 per cent, two points higher than a month ago when the party was hit by the arguments over the Scott report. This is the same level as at the New Year. Fears over beef have not yet had an adverse impact on their ratings.

Support for Labour has been unchanged over the past month at 57 per cent, the highest level since July. Mr Blair's personal rating is also the highest since then. The public is satisfied with his performance by a two-to-one margin. Liberal Democrat support has slipped one point to 13 per cent, though Paddy Ashdown's personal rating remains positive.

MORI interviewed 1,910 adults face-to-face at 143 ward sampling points across Britain between March 22 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).



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Handbags away: New uniforms being modelled yesterday by sailors Penny Taylor and Neil Morris and below, the old-style bell-bottoms

### Naval flare-up saves bell-bottoms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy bell-bottom trousers have been saved by an outcry in the Senior Service that was so great female sailors will now wear them as well.

But the new rule means that for the first time, they will not be allowed to carry handbags.

After a review of all naval uniforms, female ratings — no longer officially called Wrens — will wear the same traditional flared trousers and square rig tops as their male counterparts.

The grievance for bell-bottoms was ordered despite a decision by the naval review team to swap flares for straight trouser legs because it thought the wider bottoms smacked of 70s styles. However, sailors used as guinea pigs for the new uni-

forms said straight trousers looked too ordinary and demanded their flares back.

Female ratings who currently wear a double-breasted jacket and either trousers or skirts, depending on whether they are aboard ship or ashore, will now wear the square rig outfit. It will be tailored to "fit the female form", according to Commander David Hobbs, who led the review. "And there will be no more handbags," he said.

Among other changes, officers are to be formally entitled to wear a kilt in the wardroom. The Scottish ancestry of Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord, may have played a part in winning recognition for the kilt. The Navy Board said the prac-

tice of wearing the kilt was "harmless, colourful and supported by several very senior officers".

Trials are also to be launched to replace the gold lace in officers' sleeves and on their caps with a synthetic material.

One item which was scrapped more than 20 years ago has been revived: a black silk scarf worn by naval gunners to absorb the sweat of battle is to be included in the new outfits. The silk scarves date back to 1940, but in a 1970 clothing review they were replaced by a pullover which had a silk facing in the collar.

Bell-bottoms were first worn in 1857 and survived despite fashion changes until the 1970s, when slightly more modest

flares were introduced.

The bell-bottoms were 20 inches wide, covering the boot and swinging in the wind as sailors came down the gangplank.

The new flared trouser will be 18-20 inches wide, which compares with the average civilian trouser of between 16 inches and 18 inches.

The old bell-bottoms were designed principally to enable the sailor to roll them up in the days when seamen scrubbed the decks in their bare feet. They were also easier to remove if a man fell overboard.

The concertina pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.



### Shepherd backs sixth-form exam reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

GILLIAN SHEPARD yesterday signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered a tightening of A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

Accepting a raft of recommendations from a year-long review by Sir Ron Dearing, the Education and Employment Secretary announced an eight-point programme of immediate action. Some reforms will be launched before the end of next year.

Among the innovations will be a national diploma encompassing academic and work-related qualifications, for which students will have to study at least four different courses. Higher-level vocational qualifications will be renamed Applied A Levels in an attempt to raise their status.

Labour said last night many of Sir Ron's proposals echoed its own plans for qualifica-

tions, outlined last week. David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said: "The new national framework for qualifications will offer clarity and coherence to employers and parents. The current system is confusing and complex."

Mr Blunkett said the Government should have ensured vocational qualifications met the same standards as A levels before changing their names. He added: "We have argued that advanced GNVQs needed to improve before earning the title applied A level. The Government should insist on the same degree of rigour."

Mrs Shepherd told MPs that Britain's international competitiveness and future prosperity demanded a higher level of qualifications. The package of measures derived from Sir Ron's 200 recommendations would ensure rigour.

Continued on page 2, col 3

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Leading article, page 21

### 'New-style' CJD case reported in France as beef ban is confirmed

By BEN MACINTYRE, RICHARD OWEN  
PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FRENCH victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease, it was reported yesterday.

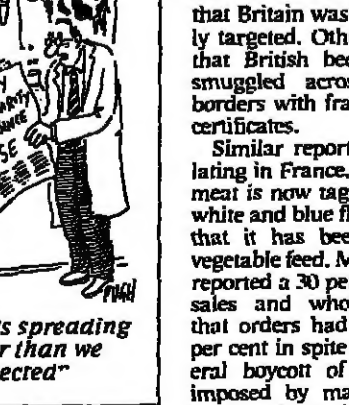
The deaths of five Italians from CJD were also disclosed for the first time yesterday and doctors said they believed that two others had been killed by the brain disorder.

France has about 50 cases of CJD each year, but the young victim in Lyons was the first to have shown the same new symptoms as the British cases. *Le Monde* reported. The patient, who has not been identified, was one of two people aged under 40 diagnosed with the disease this year, and tests were being

carried out to see if the circumstances of the death were identical to those linked with "mad cow" disease in Britain.

French government officials have hitherto maintained that no case of CJD in France could be linked to the new strain of the disease, but the scientists carrying out tests in the Lyons case refused to comment until the post-mortem examination was complete. French health officials insisted, however, that neither of the young victims was believed to have contracted CJD through eating beef.

At least two of the Italian victims were older, but the cases came to light only because of the public alarm that has seen the meat market collapse. Supermarkets and



butchers said that beef sales were down by 30 per cent and still falling, and the head of the Italian Butchers' Federation accused the media of "information terrorism".

### Captives freed as hijackers give in

Hijackers who forced an Egyptian aircraft to fly from Luxor to Libya surrendered last night and released their 150 captives.

The EgyptAir Airbus A320 was seized en route to Cairo. Egyptian sources said the hijackers claimed to be carrying a message from God for Egypt's President Mubarak and President Clinton.

### Fine and ban for former minister

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former minister for the disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a young child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay £450 costs.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied falling to stop after the accident. Page 3



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# With the right cause, a revolting backbencher is no laughing stock

To anyone who has served as a Government backbencher (as for seven years I did) — those planks of the parliamentary food-chain — the Labour leader's proposals for an internal referendum (to make his party's election manifesto binding on Labour MPs) are of real significance.

Along with many fellow-candidates, I never read Conservative Party manifestos in full. They were long and turgid documents whose general drift we knew. On the whole we supported them but

we reserved the right to disagree with individual elements within.

If these were important issues we would have felt some obligation to tell our constituency chairman, but certainly not to inform Conservative Central Office or the party leadership.

Smaller disagreements were rarely raised until they came to a Commons vote. I would forewarn the whips of my anxieties. For example, I refused to support the Assisted Places scheme. The whips called me an idiot but nobody

suggested that I had broken any obligation to our manifesto. Whips, however, would suggest to potential rebels that the electorate had sent us to Westminster as Conservatives and we should think very hard before acting in any other way. Among constituents you were damned if you did and damned if you didn't. Some would praise you for your independence. Others would tell you that they had not voted Conservative to have you vote against Tory measures in the Commons. Both had a point. Any Gov-



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

ernment backbencher has felt the pull of each argument within his own head and heart. The truth (and I know it) was that all but a handful of the twenty-odd thousand who voted for me would have voted for a monkey, so long as it sported a blue rosette. It was the Tory programme for what they took it to be for which they had voted. Only a minor-

ity knew or cared much about me. But still I persuaded myself, as all backbenchers do, that I owed my constituents some kind of duty to use my own judgment. I also persuaded myself that I owed the parliamentary party the same duty; and that I might dissent from a plank in the party's raft of policies without ceasing to be

a Conservative or losing my moral right to stand as one. How did I reconcile that with the undoubted fact that my mandate from West Derbyshire was the Thatcher mandate, not the Parris one? In part it was a matter of self-respect. The backbencher needs to feel his presence matters. He needs to feel, too, that he also represents the many who did not vote for him. There is an element of irrationality here, but it remains emotionally important to backbenchers.

More rational was the argu-

ment that it was important to my party that its leadership could earn our support, and could never sleep certain in the knowledge that it would keep it.

To belong to a party among whose MPs there were lively and continuing disagreements about important matters was a source of pride to me and (I supposed) healthy for the party.

The knowledge that I must justify myself to my constituents by my own Commons votes kept me arguing my corner within the party, rather

than shrugging "manifesto commitment".

When whips urged "the manifesto" on me I acknowledged the great force of this argument, and it nearly always prevailed. But I never thought it always must and nor really did they, whatever they pretended. This was one tiny lever I had in an otherwise unequal struggle. Between telling me loyalty counted and telling me I had no right in any circumstances to rebel, there seemed, and still seems, a small but important difference.

## Shepherd to broaden autonomy for schools

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

WIDE-RANGING proposals to give all schools more power to run their own affairs and to select more pupils on grounds of ability, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised today by the Education Secretary.

In a move that ministers believe will kill lingering suspicions of a rift between herself and the Prime Minister, Gillian Shepherd will announce that a White Paper setting out firm proposals for the extension of self-government in schools is to be published in June.

The White Paper will also cover the controversial area of selection. Mrs Shepherd is expected to suggest that all schools should consider whether their admission policies best match the needs of their area. The paper will fuel suggestions that the Government is trying to reduce the number of comprehensives.

Outlining plans that could take the Government nearer to its objective of a big increase in the number of opt-out schools, Mrs Shepherd will make plain in a speech that she wants to extend self-government in all schools, those run by local authorities as well as those that are grant-maintained.

She wants all schools to have as much power as possible over their budgets, possibly raising from 85 per cent to 100 per cent the proportion of budgets "delegated" to them.

Existing grant-maintained schools will be given more freedom in the way they operate and develop, adding to the attraction of GM status. In particular the Government will examine ways of freeing them further from the purses of local authorities, for

example in areas such as transport.

At the same time she will pledge that all schools that want to select more of their pupils should be able to do so. Ministers are already increasing from 10 to 15 per cent the proportion of pupils a school can select without seeking government approval; the White Paper is likely to raise the prospect of this being increased to 20 per cent.

In remarks that will be seen as backing an increase in the number of grammar schools, Mrs Shepherd will speak of wanting to encourage all schools to build on their strengths and establish distinctive identities.

Her announcement will be followed up by John Major in his speech to the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate on Saturday. He is expected to underline to the Tory faithful that there are no differences between himself and his Education Secretary over the desire for more self-government and selection in schools.

There have been persistent suggestions that Mr Major wants to move faster than the Education Department on opting out and selection.

While making plain that she is opposed to a return of the universal 11-plus, which she believes would undo many of the gains made in bringing diversity and choice to the state sector, Mrs Shepherd's speech is intended to lay such suggestions to rest.

Some Tory MPs are known to be irritated that the Prime Minister's Downing Street policy unit has been floating radical policy ideas whose disclosure has undermined Mrs Shepherd's attempts to move at a more sensible pace.



Mrs Shepherd with Sir Ron yesterday after he had presented his plans to inject more quality into education

## Sixth-form study shake-up ordered

Continued from page 1  
and quality at a crucial stage of education. The Government's action plan demands proposals by the end of the year to safeguard A-level standards and reduce inconsistencies between different subjects and examining boards. Research commissioned by Sir Ron found that some subjects, including English and business studies, attracted significantly higher grades than mathematics or the sciences.

George Turnbull, for the Southern Examining Group, denied A-level standards had slipped, and said it would not be easy to ensure exact parity between different subjects. "It is not easy to compare Einstein and Shakespeare".

However, Mrs Shepherd said she expects to see some improvements by September 1997, with the full implementation of a programme agreed

with the boards a year later. She has also asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to produce measures to increase the take-up of science and mathematics courses beyond the age of 16.

New one-year AS levels will allow teenagers to study a broad range of four, five or six subjects when they enter the sixth form. They will be encouraged to make one of these an AS level course on "key skills" such as communication and team working, demanded by employers.

The Confederation of British Industry said it would have liked Sir Ron to go further and made key skills part of every A level. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals agreed some students would benefit from the chance to take university course units while still at school. Diana Warwick, its

chief executive, said: "Sir Ron has found a way which we believe will protect standards, at the same time as increasing the scope for broader pre-university education."

University lecturers were sceptical about school pupils taking their courses. David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "The idea that some sixth formers could acquire sufficient undergraduate credits to complete a degree in two years is totally unrealistic. Even if it were possible, it is by no means obvious that it would be desirable."

Head teachers said Sir Ron's review would make sense of the current "jungle" of qualifications. The National Association of Head Teachers particularly welcomed the re-naming of advanced GNVQs as applied A

levels and the creation of a single National Certificate.

However, the association had "serious reservations" about the proposed national diploma at advanced level, which it said was too demanding to be left as a voluntary option.

The Royal Society was among organisations which lobbied for a greater emphasis on core skills to broaden young people's achievements and was pleased they featured prominently in the review. Sir John Horlock, the society's vice-president, also hailed the drive to improve mathematics and science education.

"Urging all schools to spend a full 20 per cent of curriculum time at 14 to 16 on science is a position we support entirely."

Details, pages 10, 11  
Leading article, page 21

## FO loses works of art round the world

By Nigel Williamson  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Foreign Office has lost more than 200 works of art from the Government collection. The disclosure comes after an official report earlier this month that criticised the Ministry of Defence for losing 205 works, one fifth of its collection.

The Heritage Department has confirmed that 206 works of art are missing from 356 FO buildings around the world and another 14 from FO premises in Britain. Six of the works were lost during the emergency evacuations of British embassies in Belgrade and Baghdad. It was not clear last night how the other 214 items had gone missing.

The Department of the Environment has lost 49 works. Trade and Industry 22 and the Department of Health 18. Customs and Excise has also lost 18 pictures from the government collection. Six items are missing from the Cabinet Office.

Richard Mottram, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, came under fire from both Conservative and Labour MPs on the Public Accounts Committee over a report from the National Audit Office which disclosed that the ministry had been unable to locate large numbers of works in its £5 million collection.

Mr Mottram described the difficulties of keeping track of works of art. "When officers or officials move into a room and they haven't liked the pictures, they pass them on to others. Or they move from job to job and take the pictures with them. Once that happens three or four times it is impossible to know where they are."

New regulations mean that service personnel, civil servants and even ministers will in future be asked to sign personally for whatever is hanging on walls of their offices when they take possession.

## Gulf War syndrome inquiry

Medical experts investigating Gulf War syndrome for the Ministry of Defence are to study claims that hundreds of veterans of the 1991 war may have suffered neurological damage after being given a mixture of anti-nerve gas vaccines and tablets.

A new programme of MoD research will follow the work of Dr Goran Janal, who reported yesterday in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* that 14 Gulf War veterans suffering from a range of illnesses showed evidence of nervous system dysfunction compared with a similar group of healthy civilians.

## Journalist backed

The right of journalists to protect sources was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights. The court found that the Government had breached the European Convention on Human Rights in the case of Bill Goodwin, a trainee on *The Engineer* who was fined £5,000 for refusing to name a contact.

Leading article, page 21

## Rail service sold

The London to Edinburgh InterCity train service, made famous by the *Flying Scotsman*, has been sold to Sea Containers. The company, which operates the Orient Express and Cross-Channel services, has been confirmed the successful bidder in the auction to run the £250-million-a-year franchise for InterCity East Coast.

## Ulster protest

Conservatives in Northern Ireland have written in protest to John Major after being told they would not be allowed to contest the elections to all-party talks in the Province. They have accused the Government of disenfranchising the 45,000 people in Northern Ireland who voted Tory at the general election.

Letters, page 21

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## French CJD case

Continued from page 1  
European Commission yesterday.

That led to urgent talks between London and Brussels on an EU support package for measures that are expected to include the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of older dairy cattle — which could cost £3 billion in compensation over the five years it could take to get "mad cow" disease out of the system.

Ministers agreed yesterday that the main priority was to rebuild public confidence in beef, but Downing Street nevertheless criticised the export ban as disproportionate and confirmed that John Major was likely to raise the issue with fellow heads of government at the Turin summit tomorrow.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, suggested that Britain might take the Commission to the European Court of Justice, but he admitted that that could take months and was not an immediate solution to the problem. He said the Government was working as speedily as it could to put together a package of measures for which EU help would be available.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, meanwhile finally abandoned the Government's position that it was prepared to adhere to scientific advice that culling was unnecessary. "Yesterday the argument moved. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef," he said. "The question now is a matter of consumer confidence. It is one thing to have a safe product, it is another to command confidence in the market place."

Mr Hogg and Mr Dorrell had earlier both faced heavy criticism from Tory MPs during a four-hour joint session of the Commons health and agriculture select committees.

Edward Leigh accused them of contradicting each other over a cull, while David Congdon and William Powell called for more specific information about the risk of contracting CJD from BSE-infected offal. They complained that scientists' assurance that the risk was "extremely low" was unhelpful.

Mr Leigh said that Mr Dorrell had hinted heavily that partial cull could be expected, but Mr Hogg had denied suggestions of a selective slaughter.

"Because these questions are not being answered today, what this committee will be faced with is an inability to do its job properly," Mr Leigh said. "There will be a statement made to Parliament about some kind of partial slaughter policy, but then up will jump [BSE experts] who will say 'this is far too little, too late'."

Compensation offer, page 9  
William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Letters, page 21

## CORRECTIONS

□ Contrary to our report (March 21) Mr Duncan Walker, consultant cardiothoracic surgeon, Leeds, did not himself allege bribery against a colleague. Acting on advice from the General Medical Council, he merely passed on what he had been told on the telephone about a colleague to the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority solicitor.  
□ The millennium lecture by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks (report, March 21) was delivered at the Manchester Business School.  
□ Cadbury's chocolate fingers (report, yesterday) do not contain any beef products.

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## Chelsea MP admits drink-driving Sir Nicholas Scott banned from road for leaving crash

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIR Nicholas Scott, the former Minister for the Disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £450.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the three-car crash as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas, 62, drank up to three glasses of white wine when he made a speech at a party in his west London constituency before the accident.

Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident in Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Roger Davies, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, central London, found that the MP had failed to remain at the scene after driving his red Volvo into another parked Volvo which hit the buggy and trapped it against a Jaguar.

In the pushchair was Thibault Perreard, aged three years and eleven months, the son of a Swiss banker.

Yves Perreard, 37, who was with his wife, told the court that he shouted "stop, stop" and waved his arms at the car that caused the accident. After rescuing his son he was unable to find the driver. His son was crying. In attempting to free the boy from the trapped buggy he twisted his ankle.

Sir Nicholas said that he walked 400 yards to the local constituency association headquarters to telephone emergency services, leaving Patricia Sill-Johnstone, his secretary, to take care of

matters. He did not leave his name with anybody because he assumed everyone knew who he was.

The magistrate interrupted the MP's evidence to query why he had walked 400 yards to make his call when he could have stopped at a public telephone or at restaurants on the way.

Sir Nicholas failed to telephone from his headquarters because the building was closed. Without stopping at the scene of the accident, he then walked to the home of his doctor.

There he drank a glass of whisky offered to him while a call was made to police telling officers where he could be interviewed.

A blood test revealed 98 milligrams of alcohol to 100 milligrams of blood, the limit being 80 milligrams.

Dean Ramsey, a local resident who was taking a walk, said that when he knocked on the window of Sir Nicholas's



Scott assumed he was known to everyone

car he could get no response. "The defendant looked like somebody who had had too much to drink. He looked like he was about to go to sleep. His eyes were closing."

Michele Palmiera, a mechanic from east London who was driving past, told the court that a woman at the scene was verbally abusing people.

She allegedly called Mr Perreard "French scum" and asked the crowd that had gathered to disperse at once.

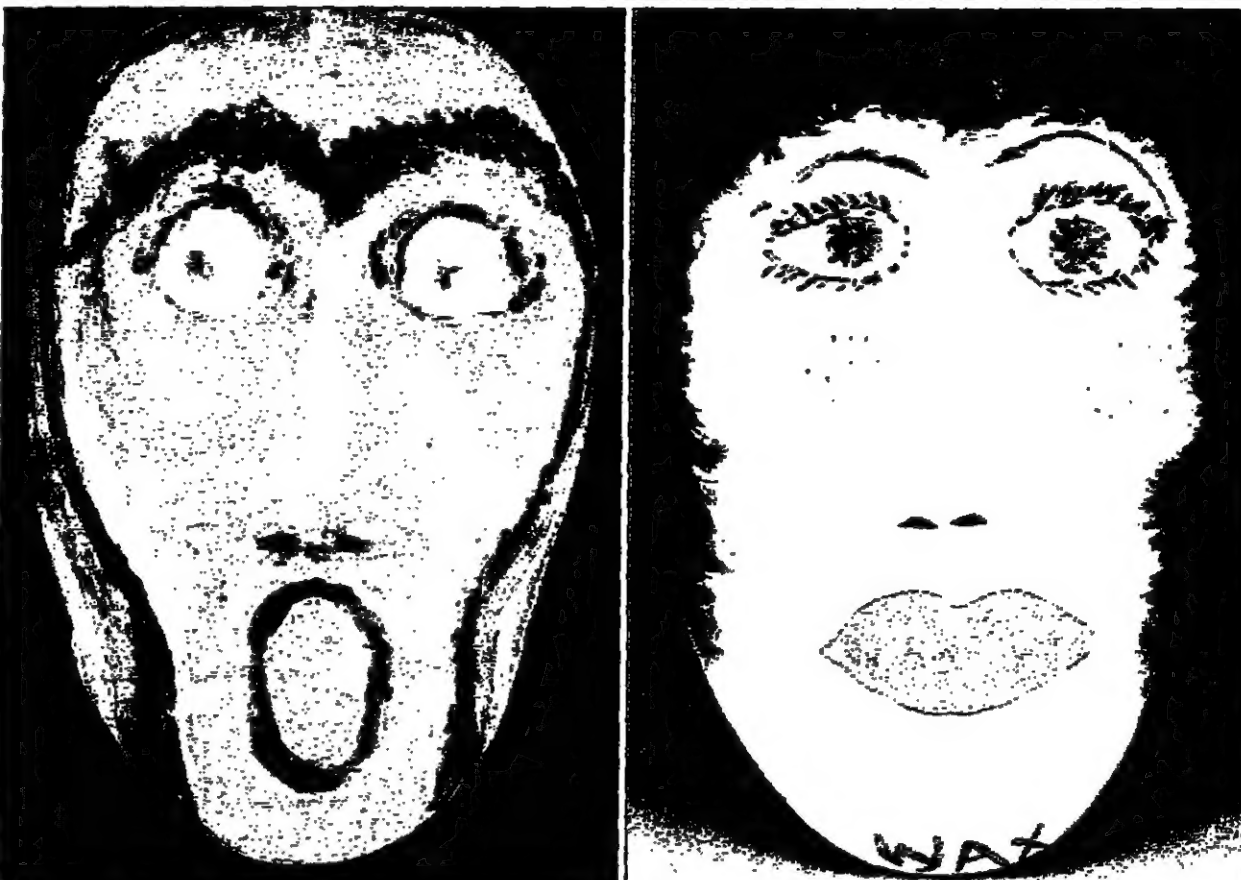
Sir Nicholas told the court that after returning from constituency headquarters he was on his way back to the scene of the accident but realised there was commotion and turmoil. A woman was shouting: "Lock him up, lock him up." He did not wish to inflame the crowd by returning.

"I thought it was better for me not to hang around, not least because of this woman's behaviour which was increasingly erratic," he said.

The magistrate told Sir Nicholas: "You had no idea at that stage of the damage that might have been caused to the cars or what possible harm might have occurred to the child. There was an obligation for you to remain on the spot for a period of time. That you failed to do."

□ Sir Nicholas, as Minister for the Disabled, had a public fallout with his daughter Victoria after he admitted he misled MPs when he denied that his department had been involved in tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994.

Victoria, a lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father and supported calls for him to resign.



Decorated masks donated to the Prince's Trust by the cartoonist Bill Tidy, top, Lord Healey, left, and the comedian Ruby Wax. Hundreds of celebrities were sent plain, white masks to decorate however they chose. A selection is on display at Olympia until tomorrow. The full collection will be auctioned in November

## BBC wins deal for Potter's last film

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished film script by the late Dennis Potter is to be made into a film by the BBC with backing from Hollywood.

*White Clouds* is about a young Englishman living in Verona who kidnaps a young girl and demands a ransom but ends up killing her, despite falling in love with her. It is based on the novel *Caro Massimino*, by Tim Parks.

It had been thought that Potter's last unfinished works were *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, two four-part dramas he wrote for the BBC and Channel 4 shortly before his death from cancer in June 1994. However, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it was developing *White Clouds* in partnership with an unnamed American company. It will have a budget of £3.5 million and filming will begin in Italy in the autumn.

Potter's close friend and collaborator Ken Trodd, who has produced *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, said that Potter completed the script for *White Clouds* before he became ill. "He gave it me to read. Although it is based on someone else's novel, Potter's stamp is very much on it. It is a very clever piece, reminiscent of *Brimstone and Treacle*."

Trodd was speaking at the launch of the BBC's spring and summer schedules, at which it was announced that *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* would be screened by the BBC and Channel 4 in April and May. The season also includes a five-part documentary series, *Defence of the Realm*, about the Ministry of Defence. □ Prince Edward's television company has won its first BBC commission, it was announced yesterday. Ardent Production's documentary *The Search for the Silver Arrow* is to be shown as a Top Gear special next month.

## Pre-teen children fall prey to shape of fashion models

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as 11 worry about the size and shape of their bodies and are alarmed that the changes taking place at puberty run counter to the dictates of fashion, according to a survey.

Half of girls and a third of boys are concerned about their body image, with twice as many girls as boys wanting to lose weight, the survey of 11 and 12-year-olds found. In many cases the desire for slimmer was influenced by the images of fashion models.

The questionnaire survey, published yesterday by the Health Education Authority, was conducted among 530 pupils in three secondary schools. It found that many children undergoing puberty, especially girls, felt they were fat and were alarmed at the unexpected increase in weight.

Girls are particularly concerned about their legs and their stomachs. Many claimed they wanted to be slimmer for themselves, not because they cared about what others thought. One said: "I have photos of me when I was really skinny and dressed up and it really makes me sick to see that I have put on so much weight." The strategies adopted

by girls to achieve the ideal shape range from doing very little to taking exercise and to serious attempts at dieting. Dancing or aerobics classes were cited as the "right way" to achieve slimmer.

Dieting was seen as particularly difficult at school where children were subject to peer pressure to indulge in snacks and chips, but easier at home.

However, some children — 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls — say they would like to put on weight. One in 15 children of both sexes felt they were too thin.

Parents interviewed for the survey felt that their children's worries about being overweight were unfounded. They tried to reassure them by explaining that weight problems ran in the family or were a natural phase of adolescence.

Parents were reluctant to start their children on diets, because of fears about anorexia. The survey, included in a report *Health Promotion and the Family*, found parents felt ill-equipped to discuss subjects such as body image, sex and depression with their adolescent children.

## Two wronged parties make a right for jilted minister

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BAPTIST minister whose wife set up home with their gardener has decided to remarry — and has chosen the gardener's former wife. The Rev Dennis Mickelsen said that his bride, Joan Stannard, was like him, a "wronged party".

Mr Mickelsen, who was last year evicted from his home after he refused to pay a divorce settlement, was devastated when his former wife Audrey, 69, walked out on their 41-year marriage and set up home with Peter Fisk, their gardener, in 1990.

The two couples were once great friends and used to go on drives and outings together. Mr Mickelsen will now marry Mrs Stannard, who was married to Mr Fisk for 42 years but reverted to her maiden name after her divorce, at his church in Sutton, Suffolk, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

Mr Mickelsen, 72, had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than pay a penny towards the £109,500 divorce settlement to his wife, with whom he had four children. He later ordered a court order to pay his former wife £20,000, half the proceeds of the home, and £625 a month for five years. "I bear no

animosity to any person on this earth including those who have wronged me. But although I sent letters and flowers to my wife after she left, I had no other communication with her apart from two chance meetings at a garage," Mr Mickelsen said.

"I waited and prayed for six years for her to come back. Then I felt in my heart that I could be happy with Joan who like me is also a wronged party. We feel a common bond of Christian faith which is the best union that there can be."

He added: "The Bible says that a marriage can only end if there has been unfaithfulness and there has in this

case. Other ministers and people might think differently but I think there is a place for remarriage when the circumstances are genuine."

Mr Mickelsen said his marriage plans had met with "a favourable and happy" response from his congregation. Mrs Stannard said: "I am very happy to be with Dennis. Our lives will be full again. We have been friends for a long time but we only got serious recently."

The couple plan to live in Mrs Stannard's sheltered accommodation flat in Woodbridge. Their former partners have not married but live 12 miles away at Otley, near Ipswich.



Peter Fisk with Mr Mickelsen's former wife, Audrey

## Money for wrongful arrest 'ridiculous'

BY ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was ordered out of her sickbed and wrongly arrested over two unpaid parking fines described an offer of £150 compensation as ridiculous yesterday.

Caroline Coupland had reported her car stolen at the time the penalties were incurred. But she was told by a police officer that if she did not get dressed and accompany him to court she would be handcuffed.

The mistake was blamed on lost documents and Ms Coupland, 31, of Ash, Surrey, was offered the compensation by Hampshire Magistrates' Court Committee as a "gesture of goodwill". She was told that magistrates, who issued an arrest warrant, have immunity in such cases against claims of false arrest.

Ms Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

## Lincoln's burghers offer sanctuary to outlawed Robin

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LINCOLN has offered a new home to Robin Hood, who faces being outlawed from Nottingham because he is out of date. Civic chiefs in Lincoln are planning to promote its historic links with the enduring hero of British folk history.

Lincoln green, the cloth said to have been worn by Robin and his Merry Men, was woven and dyed in the city. His celebrated robberies of the rich to benefit the poor were conducted, says Lincoln City Council, on the nearby Fosse Way.

More controversially, the city supports the theory advocated by a group of historians that he was not Robin of Loxley, a miller's son, but related to the De Kyme family, which hailed from Lincoln, some 35 miles from Nottingham. Lincoln Cathedral also boasts a medieval manuscript that documents the first connection between Robin and Sherwood Forest.

Geoffrey Ellis, the mayor of Lincoln, said: "We will take full advantage of promoting our connection with the outlaw."

"If Nottingham does not want him, we certainly do. We will support Robin Hood in

every way." But Lincoln will not secure Robin Hood's services without a fight. Only days after the plan to design a new symbol for Nottingham came to light, Robin Hood, alias actor Tim Pollard, was the main attraction at the city's stand at the British trade fair in Birmingham.

Margaret Tilson, Nottingham's tourism promotions officer, was aghast at the proposal to play down links with Robin Hood. She said: "We would not dream of dropping him, as he is so well known worldwide." Mark Alexander, executive director of Nottingham's conference bureau, said that no firm decision had been taken about the outlaw. "A marketing partnership is now looking at an image for Nottingham that would appeal across the board."

Mr Pollard, dressed in a Lincoln green tunic, said: "I hear that some people think Robin Hood is a bit of a soft image for the city. For a person to be thrown aside for having a reputation for being fair, just and honest seems to me to be daft."

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# Charity chiefs warn RSPCA to tone down experiments protest

By Andrew Pierce

THE RSPCA has been told by the Charity Commissioners not to campaign against animal experiments that are considered to be of benefit to mankind. The campaign against the British-financed use of chimpanzees in vivisection in Holland is one of the first casualties of the ruling. The society is re-examining its opposition to the use of primates in experiments and two publications that set out ethical arguments for animal

**■ Accusations that the RSCPA had sold its soul to the animal rights movement added to controversy surrounding the organisation**

"rights" are also being reviewed. Some members of the RSPCA ruling council claim that the organisation's campaigning activities will now have to be toned down and restricted to the welfare of animals. Field sports supporters and landowners may now

legally challenge the society's opposition to hunting on the grounds that the destruction of the fox can be beneficial. In a recent letter, Richard Fries, the Chief Charity Commissioner, told the RSPCA that the organisation would be behaving in a way which was "inconsistent with its charitable status" if it argued that the infliction of pain on animals could not be justified if it was for the good of man.

The charity commission intervened after an article by Michael Sissons, a leading London literary agent, in *Country Life* last November. The commission instructed the RSPCA to respond to criticisms that the society had "surrendered its soul to the animal rights lobby". Membership has halved to 26,000 in the past 20 years after a series of controversial

moves by the society, including setting out a "declaration of animal rights", attempts to encourage members to become vegetarians, opposition to hunting and the rejection of membership applications from field sports supporters. The charity has published booklets which set out detailed ethical arguments for so-called animal rights, to the annoyance of members who say it has moved away from its animal welfare work. Angela Walder, a member of the RSPCA council, when

told about the commission ruling, said: "The Charity Commissioners should go to hell." Ms Walder, a vegan, is one of the targets of the society's critics. She has several arrests for public order offences and was expelled from the movement in 1988 for bringing the society into disrepute. She challenged her expulsion in the High Court in 1991, was reinstated and in 1994 was elected to the society's ruling council. Sir David Steel, founder of the Countryside Movement

pressure group, said last night: "The commission has told the RSPCA to watch it. A vociferous but effective minority has been engaged in assiduous campaigning for animal rights which offends millions of ordinary countryside lovers. I hope this intervention by the commissioners will reverse an alarming trend. The RSPCA has moved alarmingly away from charity work and into the political arena. It should stick to what it is best at: animal welfare."

A spokesman for the RSPCA said: "We have been given a clean bill of health by the commission. We are reviewing our opposition to experiments on primates."

## No evidence offered after prosecution weighs up emotional costs of case



Rachel Heath, who was accused of giving poison to her elderly client

## Home help cleared of trying to murder cancer sufferer

By Dominic Kennedy  
Social Affairs Correspondent

A HOME HELP accused of attempting to murder an elderly cancer sufferer had her case dismissed yesterday after a judge said he would pass only a light sentence if she were convicted.

Rachel Heath, 31, was also charged with administering diamorphine, a poison, to endanger the life of or inflict grievous bodily harm to 71-year-old Kathleen Corfield.

Ms Heath was a home help and carer for Mrs Corfield, a retired civil servant who had lived in a semi-detached house in Shirley, Southampton, for nearly 30 years. Mrs Corfield, a widow, had terminal cancer of the lung and throat. She had been in Southampton General Hospital for two weeks when she suddenly fell ill in December 1994. The police were called but she died shortly after their arrival.

Ms Heath had denied attempting murder and poisoning. After discussions in chambers at Winchester Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to offer no evidence. Ms Heath, of Woolston, Southampton, wept and hugged friends after the judge, Mr Justice Ognall, dismissed the case. Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution,



Kathleen Corfield: her cancer was terminal

told the court: "Even if the case passes the evidential test, the Crown prosecutors must decide that the prosecution is necessary in the public interest."

"The change in decision is not caused by any reassessment of the evidence. The view was taken that the case was fit for the decision of the jury." Mr Mott said that, in the public interest, however, the likely sentence should be borne in mind. "If the court is likely to impose a very small or nominal penalty, it is a major factor against prosecution in a trial that may take a long time."

"In this case it would have been five days, involving witnesses with emotional involvement and an emotional

experience for the defendant herself."

"In a case such as this, where the issues go beyond the strictly legal into greater emotive significance, it is not always an easy assessment. Your lordship has very kindly made certain views known about your assessment of the evidence. Even if we prove what is set out, those views must go into the balance and cause a reconsideration of the public interest."

The decision not to continue with the prosecution had been made at a high level within the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Mott said. He added that there was an additional advantage to the decision: there could be confidence that prosecutions would not be continued simply to take the easy way out and to avoid criticism.

Mr Justice Ognall said that "in the very unusual circumstances" of this case, he was satisfied that had Ms Heath been convicted she would have received a "very small or nominal penalty".

The judge added: "The investigating and prosecution agencies should not be faulted for bringing the matter this far. They would have been failing in their duty if they had done any less. The Crown Prosecution Service has clearly acted responsibly and correctly."



The basilisk lizard, which rarely gets its feet wet

## How lizards walk on water with the greatest of ease

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE mystery of how the basilisk lizard runs on water has been solved by two American scientists.

By taking high-speed photographs they have shown that the feat is achieved by extreme speed and dexterity, combined with a power output that is, weight for weight, 15 times greater than human beings can manage.

Basilisk lizards and some shore birds can make rapid progress across water by repeatedly striking the surface with their feet. In the case of the lizards, say Dr Jim Glasheen and Dr Thomas McMahon of Harvard University in *Nature*, the rear feet, driven by powerfully muscled legs, do the work while the lizard stands almost upright.

On each stroke the foot first slaps the water, then drives downwards through it and is finally swiftly withdrawn as the other foot slaps down. The slap produces virtually

little lift, but the downward stroke does.

As the foot goes through the water it creates a cavity of air. The secret is to remove the foot before the cavity collapses. The high-speed film shows that the downward push takes 44 milliseconds, while withdrawing the foot takes 68 milliseconds—so fast that the water does not have time to fill the cavity created by the downward stroke.

The scientists calculate that the power required is 29 watts per kilogram of bodyweight, well within the capacity of the lizard, whose muscles can produce 135 watts per kilogram. The best human beings can do is 20 watts per kg. And a man weighing 13 stone and striking the water with his bare feet would need to move them through the water at a speed of more than 60 miles an hour. The fastest human recorded is Carl Lewis, at 26.95mph.

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## Lost evidence that could have saved three lives

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MENTAL patient with known homicidal tendencies was allowed back into the community where he killed his father and two pensioners, an inquiry found yesterday.

Jason Mitchell, 26, had persuaded a tribunal that he was sane. Evidence that he was a potential killer had either been lost or ignored.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, a former chairman of the Mental Health Commission, made 50 recommendations yesterday, including possibly depriving prisoners of the right to keep medical records confidential.

Mitchell, whose mother left home when he was a child, was a glue-sniffer who became a petty thief. Papers from 1988 produced by a young offenders' institution and prison showed that he was a serious-

ly disturbed teenager who believed that television sets talked to him. These records failed to follow him through his next five years of courts and hospitals.

In 1990 a vicar allowed Mitchell to sleep in a church in Epsom, Surrey. The next day, Jim Powell, the 70-year-old church cleaner, was attacked with a baseball bat by Mitchell, who threatened to kill him.

Mitchell later told police he was carrying two knives because voices had told him to kill the vicar. He appeared at the Old Bailey and was sent to West Park psychiatric hospital in Epsom.

Jackie Leaver, an occupational therapist at the hospital, provided a report in 1991 detailing Mitchell's innermost thoughts but the document was dealt with dismissively by

clinicians and other staff. The following year, Mitchell applied for discharge. In 1993 he was transferred to St Clements Hospital in Ipswich, nearer his father's home.

In 1994 Dr Ray Goddard, a consultant psychiatrist, sanctioned Mitchell's release to the community, saying there was no useful purpose in detaining him.

In December of that year Mitchell absconded from his halfway house and broke into the home of Shirley Wilson, a chapel organist, and her husband Arthur, a former station-master. He killed the couple, both aged 65. Mitchell then went to his father's home 250 yards away in the village of Bramford, Suffolk. He beheaded and dismembered Bob Mitchell. The killer told police he wanted practice before

killing and eating a younger victim. After being arrested for murder, he appeared ecstatic and sang *It's a Wonderful Life* in his cell. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Mitchell was given three life sentences last July and is at Rampton Hospital.

Sir Louis's panel blamed nobody for the triple killings. It recommended that full accounts of criminal acts involving mentally disordered people should become part of their permanent clinical record.

Dr Goddard said yesterday the distress of the case had caused him to question whether he wanted to continue his job. "I think we feel that sometimes we are being scapegoated for a national failure of care in the community," he said.



Jason Mitchell persuaded a tribunal he was sane

## Mental health inquiries dismissed as worthless

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

INQUIRIES into mental health blunders such as the Jason Mitchell killings are mostly a waste of time, according to an expert who chairs them. They nearly always reach the same conclusions, nothing is changed, nobody is sacked and they may make matters worse, according to Dr Matt Muljen. About 40 such inquiries are under way at any time. Dr Muljen, director of the respected Sainsbury Centre for Mental

Health in London, was able to correctly predict the outcome of yesterday's inquiry by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. "These inquiries invariably come up with very unoriginal findings," he said. "We know the conclusions... poor communication between agencies, lack of leadership, lack of resources. They are supposed to reassure the public, which they don't, and they are intended to improve the system, which they don't."

Dr Muljen has just chaired an inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems who lived in the community in Southampton. "Inquiry reports, including my one, come up with these findings but they are rarely taken further. You invariably find that some mistakes have been made some years earlier. What tends to happen is that the health authority reads the report, thinks about it, considers whether it can allocate more resources and often can't."

"Hardly ever does anybody get dismissed or sacked. I remember one case where a senior manager was moved sideways but everybody already knew that person couldn't do the job."

Dr Muljen said the effect on other staff could be profound. "There is a very nasty side to inquiries: the amazingly negative impact on staff morale. You could argue 'so what', but it can lead to poorer care. Staff are under incredible scrutiny by local and national press and a tough QC, which means that they are

frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muljen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

## Nuclear plant hails report

### Child leukaemia 'unlikely' to be Sellafield's fault

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria is very unlikely to have caused a leukaemia cluster among children in nearby Seascale, a government committee has concluded.

But it admits that no other single cause can explain the cluster, the subject of repeated official inquiries. Interactions between various factors, including the possibility that leukaemia could be infectious, may be responsible, the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment says.

For four decades, childhood leukaemia has been more common in Seascale than would be expected. There have been eight cases since 1945 of lymphoid leukaemia among those below the age of 25, when less than one would be the norm.

The report reviews data since a committee under Sir Douglas Black examined the issue in 1984. It shows that the excess of cases has continued and remains confined to a very small area. Cumbria as a whole does not show an excess and nor do other areas around Sellafield, where workers at the plant lived.

The committee, chaired by Professor Bryn Bridges, examined the possibility that the Seascale cluster might be due to people moving into the area, bringing with them infectious agents to which they were immune, and mixing with others who were susceptible.

The evidence available at present does not convince us that such a large relative risk persisting over more than three decades could be wholly attributed to population mixing," it concludes.

Professor Bridges speculated that if infection was the

cause, then Seascale may have been affected because of a sewage outflow from Sellafield which discharged directly into the River Ehen and flowed out to sea less than a mile from the Seascale beach.

The report says that the high incidence of leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in young people in Seascale between 1963 and 1992 was "highly unlikely to be due to chance" but that "no one factor could account for the increase."

Radiation levels were "far too small" to account for the cases on the basis of present knowledge. Nor is it clear how only the children of Seascale fathers and not those who lived elsewhere could be affected.

Professor Bridges added: "Only time will tell. We need to know a lot more about childhood leukaemia. Only then will we be able to go back and then we will be able to understand the true scale of the Seascale case."

British Nuclear Fuels welcomed the finding that occupational exposure to radiation was very unlikely to account for the excess of leukaemias in Seascale. David Young, BNFL spokesman, said: "We are pleased that at last the spectre of radiation has been lifted from us."

"But we have always felt that to blame these problems on radiation was a bit simplistic."

Janine Allis-Smith, whose son Lee was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1984 at the age of 12, said the report was inconclusive and she was still convinced his illness was caused by radioactive waste from the Sellafield plant.



Sellafield power station on the Cumbrian coast

## £146,000 lottery prize goes unclaimed

By ADRIAN LEE

A SMALL fortune will slip through the fingers of one National Lottery player tonight when the deadline expires on the highest unclaimed prize. Unless the player with a ticket bought in Torquay comes forward by midnight, £146,245, plus interest, will go to the lottery's five-good causes.

Prize-winners have 180 days to make themselves known to the organisers, Camelot. Since the National Lottery was launched 18 months ago, £33.2 million of unclaimed prizes have gone to good causes and £22.2 million is in Camelot's bank account awaiting claims.

Unclaimed prizes amount to 1 to 2 per cent of the £2.1 billion paid to winners. Camelot said: "It is terrible that someone could miss out on such a huge prize. It might not be a million but it is the sort of sum which could transform someone's life."

The ticket was bought for the draw on September 30 last year, when the numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus was 16. There was one jackpot winner, who claimed £9.9 million. The holder of the missing ticket chose five correct numbers plus the bonus.

Other prizes waiting to be claimed include £104,746 from the Redhill area of Surrey (January 6 draw), £109,892 from Liverpool (December 16) and £78,970 from Newport, Gwent (February 3). All the jackpot winners have come forward within a month, although one left his ticket in the pocket of his jeans, where it was discovered on wash day. A player holding a ticket worth £342,000 waited five months. "The ticket-holder was aware he or she had won but was very casual about it," Camelot said.

## Gardener jailed for assault at council

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who punched three councillors after they turned down his planning application was jailed for six months yesterday. Frederick Ruby went berserk over rejection of his plans to convert a stable for his mother, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.

Duncan Munro-Kerr, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Ruby, 31, a landscape gardener from Ashford, started shouting when he heard the decision last July. He rushed towards the three councillors sitting in the front row, who were in their 60s. He punched Jim Head on the right side of his face, causing him to spin round in his chair.

Harold Apps tried to shield himself but Ruby punched him about five times on the face. Martin Gray got up but Ruby managed to punch him in the right eye. Ruby lifted a chair above his head but was pulled away by his father. As he left he smashed the annual council photograph.

When he was arrested, Ruby had told police: "Basically, I saw red. I lost my temper. I walked over to three councillors and slapped them around the side of the head." He admitted three charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and damaging a photograph frame.

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# leukaemia kely' to be field's fault

SCIENCE EDITOR  
A new study suggests that the risk of developing leukaemia may be linked to the use of mobile phones. The research, published in the British Medical Journal, found that people who use mobile phones for more than 10 minutes a day have a higher risk of developing leukaemia than those who do not. The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. They analysed data from a large cohort study of over 100,000 people. The researchers found that the risk of developing leukaemia was significantly higher in people who used mobile phones for more than 10 minutes a day compared to those who did not. The risk was also higher in people who used mobile phones for more than 10 minutes a day and who also smoked. The researchers concluded that the use of mobile phones may be a risk factor for developing leukaemia. They suggested that people should limit their use of mobile phones to reduce their risk of developing the disease.



## Gardner jailed for assault at court

By [illegible]  
Gardner was sentenced to [illegible] for the assault. The judge said that Gardner had shown a lack of remorse and that the assault was a serious offence. Gardner was also ordered to pay compensation to the victim. The victim's lawyer said that he was pleased with the sentence and that the victim was satisfied with the outcome of the case. Gardner's lawyer said that his client was disappointed with the sentence and that he was considering an appeal. The case was heard at the [illegible] Court.

JP 1150



The **Magazine**,  
**Weekend**  
**Money**, **Car 96**,  
1015 for young  
*Times* readers  
and **Vision**, the  
seven-day TV  
and radio guide

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JAMES LANDALE

Mr Major, who has been fully occupied this week with the beef crisis, is understood to have agreed to defer a decision. He initially wanted to announce a referendum commitment at the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate

The Prime Minister ordered the survey last May to give grassroots members the chance to help to shape poli-

The single currency was a topic of serious debate in the constituencies. The majority of participants were sceptical about the benefits. "However, they were divided over holding a referendum. Some argued that one was vital to decide constitutional issues. Others said a referendum was not needed because there were no circumstances in which a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency. Although Dr Brian Mahoney, the party chairman, made clear that the survey was not a manifesto blueprint, he said that it showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership.

**BY NICHOLAS WOOD**  
**CHIEF POLITICAL**  
**CORRESPONDENT**

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him be-

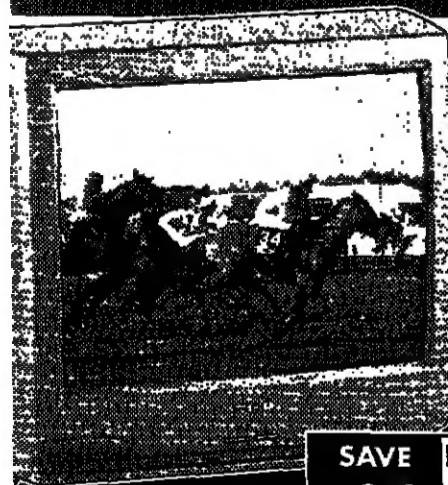


But John Witherow, editor of *The Sunday Times*, rejected Mr Riddick's interpretation of the commission's new findings set out in a letter from Lord Wakeham, its chairman, to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Witherow said the statement was a fudge making

Mr Riddick said: "This adjudication exonerates my behaviour and restores my

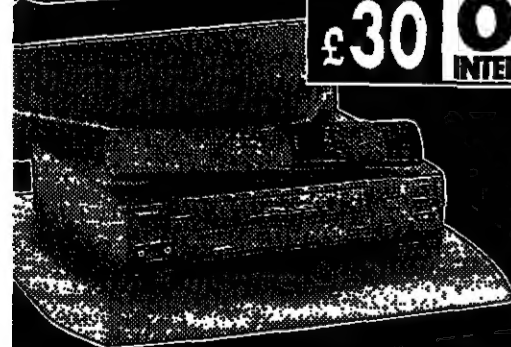
good name." He said the commission had ruled "that *The Sunday Times* should have told its readers that its journalist, when posing as a businessman, discussed a perfectly legitimate paid consultancy with me during two substantive conversations. This proves that I did not accept cash for asking questions."

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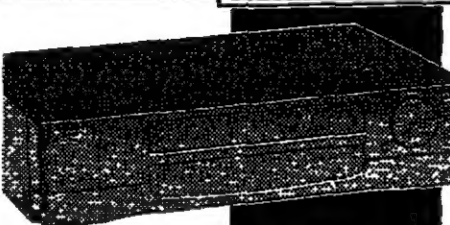
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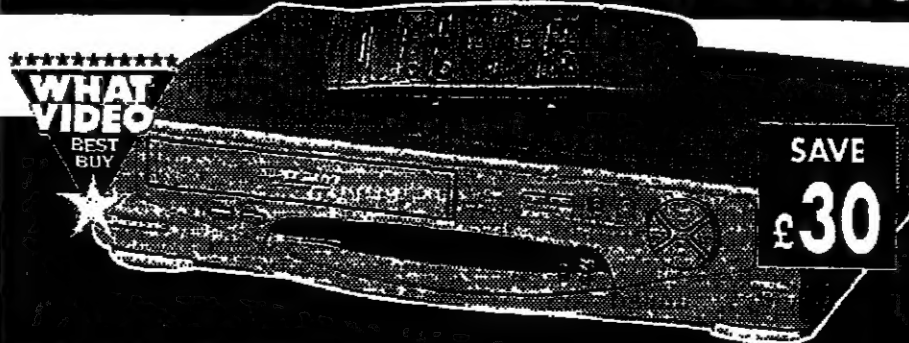
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**By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT**

**BILL** committee. TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and Prime Minister; Finance Bill; debates on the beef crisis and on women in prison. In the Lords: Police Bill, third reading; Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill, committee; tax incentives for the film industry.

Relatives of Mr Harris had written to the NEC complaining about Labour's selection of Mr Lloyd as its candidate. Mr Lloyd claims that he has been the victim of a "personal vendetta" by Mr Harris's son, David Wolfe, who is a barrister in the same chambers as Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.



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## Brussels confirms ban but offers conditional aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



Fischler: seeking to protect other states

THE European Union confirmed its worldwide ban on the export of British beef and its by-products yesterday but offered financial help for British farmers provided that the Government came up with further measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease.

Britain's two EU Commissioners joined the 18 other members of the Brussels executive in ratifying the decision to declare a global embargo on any beef leaving Britain for human consumption, whether as meat or in products such as confectionery, medicine or lipstick. Milk and other dairy products were not affected. No member state has ever been forced by fellow EU members to take such action against its own wishes.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, said the confirmed ban was vital to restore confidence. It was futile to talk about scientific fact or evidence, he said. However, Herr Fischler added: "These measures are not set in stone forever. They will apply until the necessary steps are taken [by Britain]." The Veterinary Committee which voted the measures on Monday would be convened again in six weeks.

The comments, made in a speech to the European Parliament, reflected the anger in the Commission and in other member states towards what is seen as the Government's mishandling of the emergency. Herr Fischler complained that the Commission, which is responsible for managing agriculture in the EU, had been given only half an hour's warning ahead of the announcement last week in the House of Commons. Last weekend he wrote a strong letter of complaint to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

The battle of wills pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national

farm authorities has cast a shadow over tomorrow's one-day summit of EU leaders in Turin to launch the inter-governmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.

Under the ban, Britain must report every fortnight on progress in tackling BSE, and a committee would be set up under Professor Charles Weissmann, a prominent Swiss specialist in BSE, to monitor the situation. The Commission urged Britain to take further steps: officials said this meant that the Government was expected to order the slaughter of cattle as quickly as possible.

In return, the EU would

### Farmer's fury

A French farmer whose herd of 110 cattle is to be slaughtered after one of his cows was found to have BSE grabbed a British reporter by the hair yesterday when asked how he felt. "You English bastards, you give my cows BSE then you want to know how I feel," he belatedly, Georges Hourman, who farms at Plourac'h, Brittany, claims that his cows were infected by feed imported from Britain.

take action to lighten the financial burden on British producers. The Commission would "consider any means of assisting the UK in either a technical and/or financial way on the basis of a UK proposal," it said. Farmers would also benefit from the EU's market support mechanisms. This was the first confirmation that British beef slaughtered to eradicate BSE would qualify for the subsidies paid through the common agricultural policy to maintain beef prices.

Commission officials said special measures would be necessary to transfer funds for compensating Britain from the Union's coffers. Only about £55 million is allocated for disease eradication and this has been exhausted.

Sir Leon Brittan, one of the British Commissioners, won the agreement from the Commission to make available EU funds for compensation in return for approving the ban along with his colleagues, officials said. Sir Leon drafted the text committing the commission to recommending the use of union resources once a package of measures had been agreed with the British Government.

Herr Fischler said: "It is not our objective to isolate the United Kingdom for as long as possible. These are emergency measures that will last as long as necessary."

Herr Fischler said the chief aim at the moment was to prevent a market collapse in other member states. Controls would be strictly enforced, although this would not go as far as confiscating lipsticks from travellers crossing the Channel. Commission officials would visit the UK to inspect the eradication programme, he continued. The ban would be maintained as long as a threat remained.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Letters, page 21



Dorothy Churchill and her son Stephen, who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

## Victim's family demand an apology from Dorrell

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Stephen Churchill, who died last year from a brain condition since linked to "mad cow" disease, have written to the Health Secretary to express their shock at remarks he made in a radio programme.

Dorothy and David Churchill, Stephen's parents, and his sister Helen, 21, told Stephen Dorrell: "It is with an overpowering sense of disgust that we are forced to write to you regarding your offensive remarks made publicly. That you should have the effrontery to query that the British public are going mad, rather than the cows, must rate as your most crass statement ever. We demand a public

apology for the offence caused and reiterate our calls for a public and independent inquiry into these matters."

Mr Dorrell made the remarks during an appearance on Call Nick Ross on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday, in response to a barrage of criticism from callers, many of them mothers of young children.

He said: "I agree with *The Sun* this morning, which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people. What the people have to do, what all of us have to do, is step back from the hysteria and believe the facts."

Mrs Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "Words failed me

when I heard that. We were all deeply shocked by it, as were all of our friends and neighbours."

A statement issued last night by the Department of Health said: "Mr Dorrell has great sympathy for Stephen Churchill's parents. He was replying to a query about the point that he agreed with *The Sun* that public hysteria about the possible link between BSE and CJD was out of all proportion to the risk and the scientific evidence."

Stephen Churchill died on May 21 last year, a month after his nineteenth birthday. Scientists have since identified him as one of ten victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease likely to have been caused by eating meat infected with BSE.

## Ministers face questions from all sides over BSE policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and their advisers faced four hours of questioning from MPs yesterday on the background and implications of the BSE scare.

The Commons Agriculture and Health Select Committees called Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give details of government policy. Also among the witnesses were Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, the BSE advisory committee. The following are some of the exchanges.

At the start Mr Dorrell said: "Yesterday the argument moved on. The best available evidence demonstrates that British beef and beef products can be safely eaten both here and around the world. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef. The question now is a matter of consumer confidence."

Edward Leigh, Tory MP and a member of the agriculture committee: "We are faced with a crisis of confidence in a great British industry. What policy options is the Government considering? What is the cost and what is the purpose of such policies? We have had various proposals, not least what seems to be a very sensible one of dairy cows coming to the end of their lives being bought by the Government."

Mr Hogg: "There is no recommendation from Seac for any kind of policy which involves slaughter. Seac haven't recommended that we take out of the human food chain the older cow."

"The core of National Farmers' Union proposals is that 30-month-old cows should not enter the food chain. Seac has considered the question of the older cow and recommended that... the older cow can be sold into the food chain but in a deboned state. That is where

the scientific evidence and recommendations rest."

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory chairman of the agriculture committee, asked Professor Pattison: "Would you not agree that the likelihood of BSE-infected food appearing on the dinner plate is as near zero as is humanly possible?"

Professor Pattison: "I believe that is now the case." David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can't anyone make some sort of assessment as to what 'extremely low' [risk] is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?" Professor Pattison: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases... if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

John Marshall, Tory member of the health committee: "Is there not a danger of a British industry being sold down the river by individuals who pretend there is a problem in Britain and no problem anywhere else in the world?" Keith Meldrum: "The extent to which there is under-reporting is hard to determine. It is fair to say that the problem in the UK is significantly greater than in other countries."

Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour member of the agriculture committee, referred to withdrawal of public money from a scientist researching BSE: "There has been an effective attempt to undermine work that was being done, because it didn't suit ministers." Mr Dorrell: "It is a grotesque misrepresentation of the Government's position to suggest that the Department of Health should not be interested in pursuing any course that is going to deliver better understanding of a threat to human health."

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'Pre-eminence of A levels has led to expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created'

## Dearing calls for tougher exams to stretch high flyers

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

### STANDARDS

HIGH-FLYING students will be encouraged to take revised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch sixth-formers.

Sir Ron's *Review of Qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds* calls for A levels to be made more difficult in a range of subjects, including English and business studies. Independent research had shown standards were uneven and "levelling up" should take place over a five-year period.

Examination boards will be required to monitor standards over time. Restrictions will be placed on the development of modular A levels, which have shown significantly higher pass rates than traditional examination-based courses.

Those who still find A level pitched below their natural ability will be offered Special Papers (S levels) or units from degree courses, S levels have been in decline for many years because they do not count towards university entrance.

Sir Ron proposes that revamped Special Papers should be based on A-level syllabuses, testing students to a higher standard. An alternative would be to set high flyers extended assignments, requiring research or in-depth exploration of a topic.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Sec-

retary, asked Sir Ron to ensure that the rigour of A levels was maintained when she commissioned his inquiry almost a year ago. His report says that changes within subjects and a shortage of archive material make it difficult to pronounce accurately on claims that standards have been slipping in recent years.

He says that, as the Government's academic "gold standard", A levels have stood the test of time. But the examination was established 45 years ago to select an elite for higher education, and too many students not suited to academic study were now starting courses and dropping out.

"The historic pre-eminence of A levels has led to their expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created," his report says. The new examinations structure should encourage many students to take applied or vocational courses instead.

Sir Ron sees the proliferation of A-level syllabuses as a possible threat to standards, as schools switch between examination boards to find the easiest. Decisions for schools and colleges to change boards should be taken by heads and principals under formal procedures and regulatory bodies should encourage a reduction in the number of syllabuses. Students taking modular

courses, who are able to improve their grades by re-sitting examinations, should be limited in the number of times they can retake units. Final examinations should account for a minimum of 30 per cent of the marks.

In the future, traditional and modular A levels could be unified, with "final" exams covering the whole of a two-year course.

Sir Ron acknowledged that particular concerns have been raised about the drop in mathematics and science entries at A level. Academics have complained that A-level mathematics now leaves out so many "difficult" topics that they have to give many new undergraduates remedial lessons.

The report recommends new GCSE additional mathematics courses to narrow the gap to A level. Government regulatory bodies should consult examining boards about enlarging the mandatory core of both science and mathematics A levels, so that more topics would be covered by every student.

Education, page 17  
Leading article, page 21



A-level students at work yesterday at Tiffin girls' school in Kingston upon Thames

## Vocational study could ease plight of disaffected

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

### LOW ACHIEVERS

THOUSANDS of teenagers failing to achieve the lowest level of academic success at school should try vocational study in a college or the workplace, yesterday's report recommended.

Sir Ron Dearing, who left school at 16 with few qualifications, has been particularly struck by the plight of the thousands who leave school unqualified and disaffected every year. He said school should remain the centre of education up to the age of 16 but from 14 the disenchanted and other low achievers should have regular sessions in different environments to see if they can be motivated.

Sir Ron said it was a matter of national concern that more than 40,000 16-year-olds, 8 per cent of the year group, leave school every year without the lowest academic qualification to their name, a grade G at GCSE. In 1994, nearly 80,000 in English and 90,000 in mathematics did not get a grade G, the level expected of the average 11-year-old.

His proposed new structure of National Levels embracing all qualifications represents the three existing tiers but adds a foothold for those not recording any success. Sir Ron

rejected extending the GCSE ladder below grade G (to H, I, etc) and is instead calling on schools and colleges to develop a range of Entry-level qualifications, aimed lower than anything on offer at present.

Sir Ron said: "Some 20 per cent of our young people do not achieve a qualification in both the core subjects of English and mathematics, and that clouds their whole future. To encourage, motivate and recognise the achievement of such young people must be a major objective."

The priority for Entry level would be to recognise communication, numeracy and information technology. Scales used to assess 11-year-olds could form the basis of Entry-level criteria.

Sir Ron added that teenagers who play truant or have lost interest in school may respond to the "more adult environment" of a further education college. He wants schools to link with colleges to create education programmes for low achievers.

The Association for Colleges welcomed the report and said its members would work with schools, provided disenchanted teenagers were not "dumped" on them.

### MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

NEARLY 200 recommendations are made in Sir Ron Dearing's report, including:

□ A national framework for all qualifications of four levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced.

□ Remaking the advanced GNVQ the "applied A level".

□ Making the applied A level the same size as a single A level (currently advanced GNVQs take the curriculum time of two A levels).

□ Higher standards required in some A levels, including English and art.

□ An Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination to replace the present AS level, based on the first half of an A-level syllabus, to encourage four or five choices at 16 rather than three full A levels.

□ A new range of qualifications for low-achievers at entry level, below a GCSE grade G.

□ The chance for study sessions at further education colleges or in the workplace for under-achievers at 14.

□ Opportunities for high achievers to take units of university courses while still at school or college.

□ Encouragement for high achievers to take Special level papers and a possible course in the theory of knowledge.

□ A National Advanced Diploma to recognise high achievement.

□ Emphasis on the key skills of communication, numeracy and information technology as part of the new National Certificates and Diplomas.

□ Improvements to course and careers guidance.

□ Relaunch Youth Training as a system of National Traineeships.

□ Revision and relaunch of individual National Records of Achievement for students to use to record all their achievements and plan future learning.

□ Improvements to the assessment and rigour of GNVQs.

□ Review of training for teachers of 16 to 19-year-olds.

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Candidates and employers welcome reforms and say courses fail to prepare students for A levels

## Sixth-form pupils say GCSEs are too easy

By DAVID CHARTER

STUDENTS criticised GCSEs as too easy in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing's review. It also showed that many A-level students would prefer continuous assessment, rather than all examinations coming at the end of their courses.

There has been little acceptance of advanced GNVQs by pupils aiming for university, and many doubted the relevance of A levels for later life. The GCSE, which replaced O levels in 1986, was responsible for some students dropping out of A levels because GCSEs had not prepared them adequately. Overall, 85 per cent of A-level students described their courses as "much harder" than GCSEs.

One university student commented: "At GCSE you don't have to do very much at all. You can spend the best part of 18 months just sitting in lessons talking to people and writing down whatever is put in front of you." Other stu-

### STUDENT VIEW

dents criticised the lack of depth in the combined science GCSE, which merges physics, chemistry and biology into a "double award" qualification. They said that those planning to take science A levels should be advised to take separate subjects at GCSE and called for an increase in the coverage and depth of all GCSEs.

A-level students were critical of the system in which all examinations came at the end of their courses. They and GNVQ students favoured a modular structure in which different sections of courses are assessed at regular intervals by testing or coursework.

Another drawback with A levels was felt to be the way in which they restricted the choice of university courses. Their narrow focus could also mean a difficult transition to new subjects at degree level.

These points were particularly emphasised by high achievers. One typical com-



□ Jane de Smet, head of Henrietta Barnett School, north London.

"I welcome the reforms, particularly the horizontal AS levels with an exam at the end of year 12. Doing four subjects, which the students are not forced to continue, is a great opportunity for breadth and a strong motivating factor. But it is the S levels I have reservations about: they are very demanding and if they require additional teaching it might be impossible to find staff. My budget certainly wouldn't allow that."



□ Tony Webb, Confederation of British Industry director of education and training.

"The opening of the range of options for students is particularly welcome and will increase the likelihood of making students attractive to employers. Sir Ron Dearing is saying that there are a variety of education customers out there, all with their individual needs and facing different challenges. These proposals enable them to take up new options, while the rest can continue as before. That is a welcome change to the system."



□ Kate Oreligann, the Marks & Spencer manager of recruitment.

"Widening the choice of subjects and relating them more to the world outside academia is a good thing. Teamwork is important and students practise it at GCSE level and at university. So far A levels have been an anomaly in the middle. The changes proposed would seem to address some of that. But while S levels might be suitable to some, there is more to gain from a university education than academic knowledge."



□ Jon Ashworth, London School of Economics Vice-Chancellor.

"I took two S levels myself so I must be in favour of them. I thoroughly enjoyed them and they were very useful when I started university. But one mustn't forget that universities are very different from schools. I see no reason in principle why applied A levels shouldn't be good enough to go on to university. It all depends on the nature of the university course. Some institutions will be very interested in this, particularly the technological universities."

ment was: "The A-level curriculum is not broad enough in that it is good to stretch students and it is also good to provide students with a range of non-curriculum activities." Seventeen per cent of the A-level students questioned said they would have liked a greater number of subjects but in less detail.

The survey also showed that the introduction of advanced GNVQs as a means of entry to

some universities has had limited impact. One third of GNVQ candidates were aiming for university, compared with 82 per cent of A-level students. Four fifths of A-level students surveyed had five or more A to C grades at GCSE, compared with one third of GNVQ students.

Four out of ten A-level students said that they would recommend their course because it was interesting,

compared with 33 per cent of GNVQ candidates. GNVQ students were much more likely than A-level students to have had work experience included in their course.

All students agreed that "core skills" were useful, placing communication top, followed by teamwork and "skills for work". Only one in five saw foreign languages as a worthwhile skill.

The survey covered more

than 150 schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It also showed that students were nearly three times as likely to find their choice of course restricted in small sixth forms or colleges than they were at bigger institutions. More than half of all A-level and GNVQ students said their choice of course was influenced by a careers officer or teacher, rather than by friends or family.

## Revolution may fail to smash class barriers

### COMMENTARY

SIR RON DEARING produced a blueprint yesterday for a revolution in qualifications after the age of 16. His 200 recommendations cover everything from spirituality in the sixth form to raising the status of vocational courses, toughening up A levels and attracting more teenagers to science.

The Government's chief curriculum adviser started from the premise that young people in Britain were studying too narrowly and achieving too little. His eight-volume report ranges far beyond the familiar territory of the traditional sixth form into training and even courses for disaffected pupils.

By creating a single framework covering both academic and vocational courses, Sir Ron hopes to raise standards and unlock potential among those ill-served by existing programmes.

Sir Ron was asked to square the circle of maintaining the "gold standard" of A levels while encouraging greater breadth of study after 16 and further developing vocational qualifications. Seasoned Dearing-watchers will recognise some of the techniques he has used to carry off the trick.

Government and Opposition support most of the recommendations. Teachers' organisations and business leaders were also largely supportive yesterday.

There is something in the report for all of them: tougher A levels and a revival of the S level for critics of standards, a more prestigious name and a single framework of qualifications for the vocational courses lobby, reformed AS levels and an all-embracing National Advanced Diploma for those most concerned about breadth of study. But some will see contradictions. The new Applied A levels (hitherto General National

Vocational Qualifications), for example, will not follow the same rules as the academic variety, where coursework is limited and there are restrictions on modular courses. Although a new points system should give them equal currency for university entrance, admissions tutors will not necessarily agree.

Nor is the report certain to prevent the early specialisation that most experts consider a damaging feature of the present system. Sir Ron moved away from his initial plan to require sixth-formers to take courses in more than one area, leaving students to decide for themselves.

Students will be able to keep their options open by taking up to five one-year AS levels, including one devoted to "key skills" such as communication and teamwork, but three A levels are likely to remain the passport to a top university.

Those who see the value of broader study will mix and match courses from different academic disciplines with vocational programmes, gaining credit for all of them. But many head teachers believe that only compulsion will prevent the opening of a new divide, in which obviously academic sixth-formers ignore the opportunities provided by Sir Ron.

The report goes further than before to break down the barriers between academic and vocational study. Sir Ron also takes on the reluctance to study mathematics and sciences, but he finds few simple answers other than to make arts A levels more difficult. Both traits are deeply engrained in the national psyche and will take more than one report to overcome.

JOHN O'LEARY

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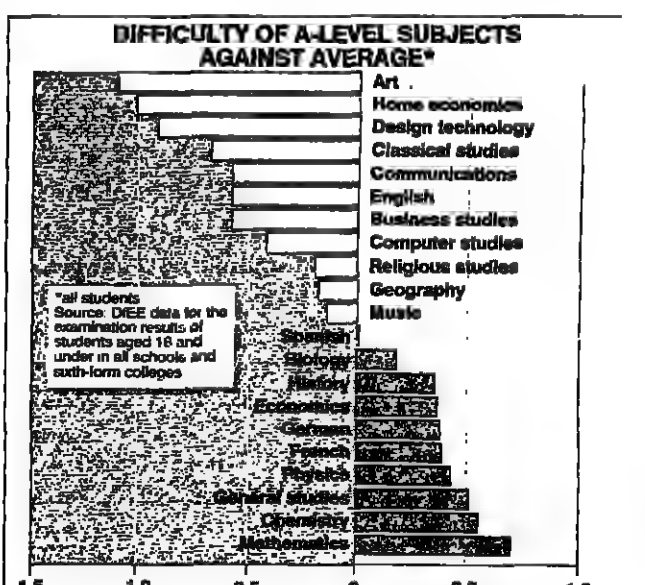
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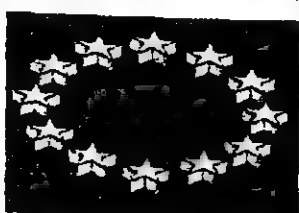






# Farm crisis drives Britain towards European fold

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS



TURIN SUMMIT

A WEEK of Europe-wide convulsions over "mad cow disease" has cast a harsh new light on tomorrow's European Union summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

The BSE crisis has pushed John Major to the centre of the stage, where he will receive the sympathies of his continental colleagues, with a little lecturing on the blessings of "solidarity".

President Chirac set the tone yesterday with a call to the French Cabinet to support Britain in its hour of need and to give generously when compensating British farmers. Philippe Vasseur, the Farming Minister, spelt out what France expects for helping Mr

Major. Britain, he said, must return the favour over the "unfair" benefits it obtains from the depreciating pound. Britain's alleged abuse of "competitive devaluation" is France's main complaint against London as Paris keeps its franc strong ahead of monetary union.

However, the beef crisis has offered a parable in what is

right and wrong in the European enterprise as it embarks on reform for the next century. According to some senior diplomats and officials in Brussels, it has also provided a chance to bring Britain closer to its neighbours. A demonstration of EU generosity towards British farmers could dim the EU's demon status in the eyes of many Britons.

The general view is that the British Government has mishandled the emergency, requiring other members, through the Commission, to step in with their own quarantine and calls for slaughter.

That view was summed up by Belgium's *Le Soir* yesterday. The country which endlessly lectured its partners on the horrors of the common agricultural policy now expected to be pulled out from Brussels, the paper said.

In Germany, a tone of weary resignation has flooded the editorial columns. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said the BSE crisis hardly helped at a time when Britain was already planning to dig in its heels at the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

However, while the rest of Europe has been congratulating itself, the beef crisis has once again exposed all the flaws in the 15-member union that was defined by the Maastricht treaty.

Instead of pulling together, as dictated by the "solidarity" preached in all the continental Euro-rhetoric, the moment the word was out on CJD, the national drawbridges were slammed shut to British beef.

As *Le Figaro* said yesterday: "All those frontiers that were supposed to disappear suddenly sprang back and everyone tried to extract a bit of profit for himself out of the crisis."

As the EU circus was beginning to fly into Turin for the first act of the year-long negotiation, the Commission's pollsters unearthed damning news. Only 15 per cent of EU citizens were aware that the Union was about to launch its Maastricht review.

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## Italians seek single voice for the EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THERE were increasing fears among Italian officials yesterday that tomorrow's Turin summit would be hijacked by the row between Britain and its European partners over "mad cow" disease.

Officials said Italy had hoped for a trouble-free summit to launch the inter-governmental conference on Maastricht. Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, believed EU leaders were close to agreement on giving Europe "a single identifiable face and voice" by appointing a senior figure to "represent Europe to the world".

Britain wants the powers of any representative to be limited, with foreign policy kept largely in the hands of national governments. Nor is it clear how a common defence policy could work. But officials said Susanna Agnelli had forged a "warm relationship" with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and that had helped to create a "positive mood" for Turin.

Susanna Agnelli said yesterday she hoped that Turin

would launch the debate on three themes: common foreign policy, reform of institutions and the rights of citizens. The summit had to give a "clear message" by affirming the "federal vocation" of the EU in the run-up to the summit in June.

The controversial single-currency issue has been kept off the Turin agenda and the Italians defused another potential row by formulating a compromise over the role of MEPs in the IGC. Signora Agnelli sounded a cautious note on the extension of majority voting, saying it had to be "carefully weighed".

Signora Agnelli, 74, has won praise from European diplomats for her tireless travelling since Italy took over the EU presidency in January. She was stung by the accusation of Richard Holbrooke, the senior US envoy, that Europe had "been asleep" during the Bosnia crisis, and chaired a Balkan summit in Rome last month to put the Dayton peace accord back on track.



The Duke inspects Krakow's only functioning synagogue with Menahem Joskowitz, the Chief Rabbi of Poland

## Ex-Communists welcome the Queen

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PRAGUE

CENTRAL Europe turned out in its thousands yesterday to see the Queen on her historic progress through the old Communist states, first in the late winter snow of Krakow and later in the warm spring sunshine of Prague.

On the last day of her state visit to Poland, the first by a reigning British monarch, a crowd defied foul weather and packed the main square of Poland's ancient and largely unspoilt capital to see the Queen make a walkabout among glorious baroque architecture that has survived despite appalling pollution. Among the crowd was a small delegation from the Polish Monarchist League.

Krakow has far more traditions of monarchy than does the modern capital of Warsaw. Not only was it the seat of Polish kings until the abolition of the throne in 1795, it subsequently fell under the relatively benign rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire while much of the rest of the country was governed by Germans or Russians.



Queen admires a doll in regional costume

historic buildings, the Queen visited the vast, dark interior of St Mary's Church and heard the truncated bugle call that is sounded every hour from its soaring spire, in memory of the medieval curfew who sounded the alarm at the approach of the invad-

ing Mongols and was shot through the neck by a Tartar arrow in mid blow.

In the Wawel cathedral on a hill above the city, the Queen laid a wreath on the tomb of General Sikorski, the wartime Polish military leader.

The Duke of Edinburgh toured Krakow's former Jewish ghetto, still much as it was in pre-war days and used for the re-enactment of scenes in the film *Schindler's List*.

Wearing the regulation kippah (black skullcap), he inspected the city's only remaining working synagogue, and saw an exhibition of a restoration project on some of the area's historic buildings being carried out with help from Edinburgh City Council.

What has changed in the ghetto is the population. Before the Nazi occupation, Krakow was home to 70,000 Jews. Such was the efficiency of ethnic cleansing that today there are barely 200.

Later in the day, the Queen flew to the Czech Republic, where again she is the first British reigning monarch to pay a state visit. She was welcomed at Prague Castle by the recently widowed President, Vaclav Havel.

Historically, the Czech Republic has less reason than Poland to offer hospitality to a British monarch. Britain turned its back on Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, yet went to war for Poland only months later.

But the European game is different now; both countries are prepared to court any Western leader likely to further their membership of the European Union and Nato.

President Havel told journalists in the castle that Czech-British friendship had existed for 1,000 years and that the Queen's visit was a symbol of continuing good relationships.

Pressed on specifics, he said that the Czech Republic was anxious to join Western institutions. "If there is the will, our membership of Nato might precede EU membership. That might be a desirable thing."

The ceremonies of welcome over, the President took the Queen for a walk in the late afternoon sun across Charles Bridge, one of Prague's great architectural monuments, where another crowd of thousands offered warm applause to their rare royal visitor.

### WORLD SUMMARY

## Robber of royal gems faces jail

New York: A baggage handler at New York airport has pleaded guilty to stealing diamond jewellery from the Duchess of York's luggage. Gilbert Terrero, 20, of Brooklyn, faces up to 18 months in prison (Quentin Letts writes).

The disappearance of the jewels on December 4, which included a necklace given to the Duchess by the Queen as a wedding present in 1986, created international headlines. Terrero, who had no idea of the owner of the gems, had taken some of the jewels to his family home in Brooklyn's Ozone Park, while others were found in his locker at work.

## Woman named 3-star general

New York: America's armed forces have nominated their first female three-star general (Quentin Letts writes). Carol Mutter, 50, a major-general in the Marines, has been recommended for promotion to lieutenant-general. The Senate is not expected to object.

General Mutter will be the only woman among 108 three-star generals. One of the first to congratulate her was her husband, James, a retired Marines colonel.

## Okinawa leader shuns US bases

Tokyo: The Governor of Okinawa said he would refuse to obey a court order to sign documents renewing leases for US military bases on the island and said he would appeal. Governor Masahide Ota's refusal will force Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to sign the leases instead. (Reuter)

## Afghans hurt in munitions blast

Kabul: Twenty-five Afghan United Nations mine-clearing experts were injured when a blast ripped through a Taliban munitions dump in the militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar, sources said. The cause of the explosion is unknown. (AFP)

## Algerian militants seize 7 Trappists

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SEVEN French Trappist monks were kidnapped from their Algerian monastery yesterday by suspected Islamic terrorists, prompting the French Government to repeat calls for all French people resident in Algeria to return home immediately.

The monks, aged between 50 and 80, were abducted from the Trappist Tibichine monastery in the town of Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers. No ransom demand has been received, but the Government identified the kidnappers as members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the Islamic groups fighting to topple the military-backed Algerian Government.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, immediately said that all 8,370 French citizens still living in Algeria, as well as tens of thousands of others holding dual French-Algerian nationality, should return to France. "I can only repeat, in the gravest and most solemn way, to all French people still in Algeria... you must return."

Since September 1993, 32 French citizens have been murdered by militants in Algeria, including seven belonging to religious orders. In 1994, the GIA vowed to eradicate all "Jews, Christians and polytheists" in Algeria.

A French government spokesman said the abduction was "an odious act against a religious community".

## Why hardship drives Russians to eat people

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW



A cannibal in the Volga during the 1921 famine

WHEN police in the Crimean city of Sebastopol were called to investigate a murder this week, nothing had prepared them for the grisly scene that unfolded during a routine search of a block of flats.

Entering the home of a former convict, the officers found the mutilated remains of human bodies being prepared for eating. The flat's owner, her mother and her boyfriend, had been stabbed to death by the 33-year-old suspect and their bodies neatly butchered. In the kitchen investigators found the internal organs of two victims in saucepans, and nearby on a plate a freshly-roasted piece of human flesh.

Although the gruesome details of the killings have stunned Sebastopol, more shocking perhaps is the growing evidence suggesting that cannibalism is not an isolated problem, but is rife in the former Soviet Union.

In the past 12 months ten people from Siberia to St Petersburg, have been charged with killing and eating their victims. The authorities are at a loss to explain the phenomenon. Last month there were two cases of cannibalism. One man in the Siberian coal-mining town of Kemerovo was arrested after he admitted killing and eating a friend, and using his flesh as the filling for ravioli, a Russian version of ravioli.

Twice last year convicts in overcrowded prisons killed and ate their cellmates because they claimed they were hungry and wanted to

relieve overcrowding. Criminal experts said that most cases of cannibalism were part of the general rise of serial killings, which have increased because police resources are so stretched by rising crime and because of Russia's mounting economic and social problems.

Andrei Tkachenko, the director of the Serbsky Psychiatric Centre in Moscow, where serial killers are sent for observation, said that in the 1980s the centre received about three or five patients a year. Now on average at least ten serial killers are sent.

"If you were to get a complete figure, you would find that there are considerably more instances of serial murders in Russia now than anywhere else in the world," he told the *Moscow Times*. Cannibalism, in particular,

could just be the grim legacy of Russia's tortured history this century, when time and again the population has resorted to eating human flesh to survive.

The first recorded cases were during the famine of 1921, when the plight of the people in the Volga region was so great that a trade in human body parts flourished briefly.

Mass outbreaks of cannibalism emerged again during the period of Stalin's collectivisation in the 1930s, when millions died of starvation in Ukraine and many resorted to ambushing and eating strangers and children.

"These were people who cut up and ate corpses, who killed their own children and ate them," wrote Vasil Grossman, a Soviet writer. "I saw one. She had been brought to the district centre under convey. Her face was human but her eyes were those of a wolf."

Andrei Chikatilo, the notorious serial killer known as the "Rostov Ripper", provided a clue to his morbid obsession before he was executed in 1994 for murdering more than 50 people during his reign of terror in southern Russia. Under interrogation Chikatilo, who not only raped and butchered his victims but ate parts of their bodies, said he had been haunted by the memory of his brother who was eaten by starving peasants in Ukraine.

Aleksandr Bukharovskiy, a criminal psychiatrist, said that the murderer's ghastly childhood memories triggered a revulsion and the urge to perform similar acts.

## UN plea for Burundi

Geneva: A United Nations investigator accused the international community yesterday of playing "a game of hide and seek" with Burundi, while the country is going through a civil war that has left thousands dead (Peter Capella writes).

Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the UN special investigator on human rights in Burundi, said that international at-

tempts to deal with the confrontation between rival ethnic groups in the past 11 months had been muddled and inadequate. "They play to find extremists. But what are they doing to find them? Nothing," the investigator said.

He added that European countries in particular had shown much concern, but little action had been taken.

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# Patten denounces Peking's plan for parallel rule

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature here, to extract a loyalty pledge from the Civil Service and to sideline the Governor, all before the 1997 handover of the colony.

China's newest blow to the colony, after Peking's humiliation in the Taiwan elections, was the suggestion that, once China has picked the members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will sit concurrently with the present wholly elected one, and designated a chief executive to replace Mr Patten on July 1, 1997, "Mr Patten will inevitably become a loner". The idea

was mooted by an "official", reliably reported to be Lu Ping, head of the State Council's China and Macau Affairs Office.

The official also said that, after the chief executive has appointed his senior officials from among serving senior civil servants here, "it will be impossible for those officials to work under Mr Patten in the morning and under the instruction of the chief executive in the afternoon. I have to ask Mr Patten how the British-Hong Kong Government will operate. I do not know how Mr Patten can pass his days in the final stage."

This appears to be a violation of the 1984 British-Chinese

treaty, which states that the British Government will exercise full authority in the colony until its flag is lowered.

The official also affirmed what his deputy had said, that senior civil servants would have to be loyal to the provisional legislature. This will force them to choose between Peking's orders and the policy of the Hong Kong Government, which denies the legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council, which will come into being at least six months before the handover. It will number among its hand-picked members 14 of those elected last year to the present council, which China says it will abolish on July 1, 1997. There will then be two councils and two de facto Governors in place.

Mr Patten said in response to the Chinese threats: "Government is not something you can turn on and off like an electric kettle. Government goes on. We have a politically neutral Civil Service." It would serve its present master loyally, Mr Patten said, and subsequently the post-1997 government. "Anyone who does not understand that, does not understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

It has already been suggested here that John Major should implement his guarantee, given during his recent trip to Hong Kong, that if the colony's liberty appears to be threatened by its future sovereign Britain would seek international legal redress.

□ Singapore: Hong Kong will remain the main port for southern China despite the development of ports in that region and even if Peking and Taipei establish direct trade links, Tony Clark, secretary of the Hong Kong Port Development Board, said.

Hong Kong now acts as the world port for China, particularly for Guangdong. "The question is, will Hong Kong remain the main port for southern China as other ports in the area are developed. Our assessment is that it will," he told a ports conference. (AFP)

Refugees has steadily lost touch with the camps and the Government has been left with the task of forcing their repatriation to an unco-operative Vietnam.

The boatpeople now number 20,000 after the often reluctant repatriation of more than 46,000 others. Pam Baker, a British lawyer who has long defended them, said the decision would have profound significance for many others in the camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 15 years.

The Privy Council noted that at least 400 boatpeople have been refused re-entry to Vietnam, often on the grounds that they are not genuine Vietnamese, and are being held without trial.

Mr Beloff said there was "no realistic prospect of release" for many camp inmates, and that they must be set free unless the Government can show why their detention should continue.

Peking has emphasised repeatedly that it wants the Vietnamese repatriated or sent to other countries before China resumes control.

THE Privy Council yesterday branded the Hong Kong Government's treatment of four Vietnamese boatpeople "an affront" to civilised standards, ordering the immediate release of the one left in custody.

The reaction to the statement by Michael Beloff QC, who held that "the right to liberty is second only to the right to life itself", will revive what has been Hong Kong's most bitter domestic political issue, and will weaken the Government's claim that it is a beacon of legality and human rights.

The ruling concerns four Vietnamese who have been denied refugee status, one of whom has been detained for six years. The four fled here with papers from the Taiwan Government, claiming that Hanoi denied them citizenship and seeking recognition as political refugees.

Many Hong Kong people may find themselves seeking refugee status in less than two years. However, most resent the fact that the colony has been forced to support the boatpeople. The United Nations High Commissioner for

## Colony criticised by Privy Council

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY



Yigal Amir, flanked by policemen, being escorted into court yesterday for sentencing

## Killer of Rabin harangues court after life sentence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YIGAL AMIR, 25, was sentenced yesterday for the premeditated murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, whom he assassinated last November in a religiously inspired attempt to derail the peace process with the Palestinians. Amir showed no remorse when the life sentence was read out.

Conspiracy theories that surround the controversial killing are likely to be heightened today when a 368-page report by the State Commission of Inquiry on the lamentable performance of Israel's security services is published. One-third of the report is classified as secret.

Judicial experts said Amir was likely to spend the rest of his life in a special cell complex for his own safety. A number of Israeli prisoners have already issued a warning that an attempt would be made to kill Amir.

Moshe Negbe, a legal expert, told Israel radio that Amir was an unlikely candidate for a normal presidential pardon and that the additional six-year consecutive sentence he received for wounding one of Rabin's bodyguards was therefore "meaningless".

Given the huge public interest, the Tel Aviv court allowed its verdict to be broadcast live. Oded Mudrik, one of the three judges who delivered the expected verdict, said: "Behind bars and within the prison

walls, the mark of Cain will be imprinted on the forehead of the accused."

Amir, an extreme right-wing former law student, showed little emotion when sentence was passed. The judges were dismissive of defence claims that he had intended only to wound Rabin, 73, rather than kill him. Amir, flanked by police, stood confidently with hand on hip and addressed the court for about four minutes before being stopped by Edmond Levy, the chief judge, who had shown little patience with him during the trial because of his attempts to use the stand as a platform for his militant views.

In his speech, Amir also said: "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah [Bible] of Israel, for the land of Israel. Whoever tries to break this link between these things will not succeed."

When Judge Levy cut him off, Mr Amir said: "May God help you." Later, as he was marched out of the packed court, he shouted: "The state of Israel is a monstrosity."

Passing sentence, Judge Levy said Amir is unworthy of anything except pity, in that he has lost all semblance of humanity. He decided that putting the late Prime Minister to death was the last way to stop the political process which he did not like, and he followed this path to its end."

## China 'staging fresh wargames'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

CHINESE troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday.

The exercises are smaller than the ones that ended on Monday, the *United Daily News* reported in a dispatch from New York.

The manoeuvres, reportedly being held inland, were said to be less menacing than the previous exercises, which disrupted shipping in the Taiwan Strait and were seen as capable of being turned quickly

into actual attacks. The report cited sources close to the Chinese military. Officials in Taiwan and China would not comment.

Yin Tsung-wen, the director of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said yesterday that China was expected to conduct exercises on mountains and urban terrain that resembled Taiwan.

The exercises, code-named "Success 965," were reported in several cities and mountains in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. They involved troops from the 27th and 63rd legions, based in the

Peking military zone. About 180,000 troops were taking part in the exercises, compared to the 800,000 in three rounds of earlier wargames which were calculated to intimidate Taiwan, the paper reported.

In a separate report, the *United Daily News* quoted unidentified military officials as saying Taiwan would establish three bases for Patriot missiles in northern Taiwan to help to defend the capital city of Taipei. Bases would be set up in Nankang, Linkou and Wanli for the missiles, which would be delivered from the

United States late this year, it added.

□ Peking: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary General, who met Chinese leaders here during a four-day visit to China, said that Taiwan could never be a UN member "unless there is a change of mind in China," (James Pringle writes).

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said America would face the "resolute opposition" of China and its people if Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-hui, was allowed to accept an invitation to visit the US.

## Briton rejected freedom

BY LEVYA LINTON AND JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, the British charity worker taken hostage in northwestern Cambodia, rejected an offer of freedom because he did not want to abandon his Cambodian colleagues.

The kidnappers, believed to be Khmer Rouge deserters, told him to go to negotiate a ransom, but Mr Howes, 36, a Falklands ex-serviceman, refused. Instead, he persuaded the bandits to release nine captives. Others escaped and the rest, except Mr Howes's interpreter, were set free later.

Roy Howes, 68, from Bristol, said he was not surprised by his son's bravery. "He is just an ordinary Englishman doing his job," he said.

Mr Howes was seized with up to 23 volunteers on Tuesday as he supervised mine-clearing. Yesterday, two Cambodian policemen were killed by landmines as they helped to search for him.

## Gunman holds seven hostage

Leisenkaul, Germany: A gunman seized seven hostages, four of them children, in a western German village yesterday and threatened to kill them if his demands were not met, the police said.

They said the 45-year-old gunman had originally held 12 members of his own extended family captive, but it was not

immediately clear how the other five family members apparently had managed to get away.

The unnamed man from Mannheim was holding his hostages in a relation's house in Leisenkaul, a village in rolling hills near Koblenz, on the Rhine. He was demanding 500,000 marks (£220,000) and

the opportunity to make good his escape.

The police opened negotiations by telephone, but said an early end to the siege was not in sight. They lifted a news blackout that had been imposed after the gunman said he would kill himself and his hostages if the media reported the incident. (Reuters)

## Jackson's star dims in Oscars fiasco

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS HOLLYWOOD returns groggily to work, it has become clear that the only real loser on Oscar night was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Mr Jackson's protest over the under-representation of blacks in films, which began with the revelation that only one Oscar nominee was African-American, has turned into a political damp squib and a personal humiliation.

After Whoopi Goldberg, the black actress, mocked him in front of a billion television viewers on Monday, Mr Jackson was dismissed yesterday by Patricia Turner, a professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, as "an unduly opportunistic man grasping for straws".

Mr Jackson urged Californian supporters to join him on Oscar night with banners and slogans outside ABC television's Los Angeles affiliate, but barely two dozen turned up. He urged the eight black celebrities appearing as presenters to wear rainbow-coloured ribbons in recognition of his Rainbow Coalition, but only the producer, Quincy Jones, did so.

Claiming in the aftermath of Hollywood's night of stars to be "at the centre of debate", Mr Jackson may have been accurate. But that debate concerns his judgment. Publicists for Ms Goldberg and Mr Jones told the *Los Angeles Times* that both considered the Oscars the wrong time and place for a protest.



Zia: stopped short of tendering resignation

## Zia bows to pressure for election

Dhaka: Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee fresh elections, state television said.

Earlier, senior officials told the President that they could not work from today unless the country's political crisis was resolved.

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to hold an election in May. It was reported, however, her move stopped short of meeting opposition demands that she resign by yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman, Bangladesh's most senior civil servant, signed a statement saying: "The administration, economy and law and order have all collapsed. As there is no obstacle to... a caretaker government, we have suggested to the President that it be formed immediately."

Opposition parties have staged a series of strikes to try to force Begum Zia to resign and call new elections under a neutral body. (Reuters)

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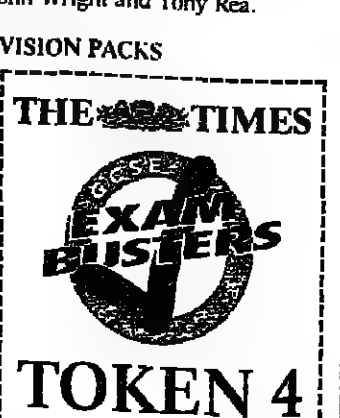
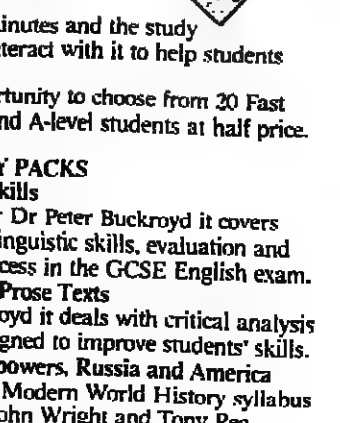
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# Women who trade faces

**T**here are moments in life when a woman simply has to take on a new image, says Joe Joseph

**W**hen Sarah Ferguson's drawn, unsmiling, blanched face and kohl-rimmed eyes appeared on the front of *Hello!* this week, many people must have assumed that the world-hopping Duchess of York had volunteered to take part in some health education campaign to warn about the draining effects of multiple jetlag. Then we found out that she had actually spent several hours with a make-up artist trying to achieve this ghostly Morticia Addams look, like those odd people who go to fancy-dress parties amusingly kitted out as accident victims.

It's certainly not a wash-and-go style, even for someone who doesn't have to rush to work first thing in the morning. Fancy photographic techniques and possibly computer enhancement may have heightened the ashen, single-chin look.

But what makes women who, until now, have been happily photographed as mumsy girls-next-door feel they suddenly have to play the vamp? The Princess of Wales did it, famously, in front of Patrick Demarchelier's flustering lens. The Duchess of Kent called on Snowdon. And later Demarchelier, when she wanted to show new faces to the world.

Emma Thompson did it for *Vanity Fair*, and Anthea Turner made a lunge at losing her Saturday-evening-family-entertainer image by posing for *Tatler* in a way that made her look sexyish, though not quite *femme fatale*.

"Quite often," says psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe, "all of us will change something about our appearance when we feel we've moved into a new phase in our lives. It may be just a matter of getting rid of a garment or a hairstyle."

Dr Martin Skinner, a psychologist at Warwick University, agrees that "people do go for a completely different look when there's been some big disjunction in their lives



**HELLO!** STUNNING NEW LOOK FOR THE DUCHESS OF YORK

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URSULA ANDRESS CELEBRATES HER 60TH BIRTHDAY



Famous makeovers: the Princess of Wales changed her image in front of Patrick Demarchelier's lens, while the Duchess of Kent called in Snowdon. The Duchess of York (centre) prefers the Morticia look

— after a breakup or when they have got a new job."

But hasn't she aped the Princess Diana *Panorama* look, with the black-rimmed eyes?

"Fergie quite often follows the Princess," Dr Rowe says. "Di works out, so does Fergie. Di uses kohl, so does Fergie."

But Diana doesn't walk around like she's just finished an eight-hour shift in a flour mill. What's the white face all about? Probably from those moody adverts in glossy women's mags for lipstick and mascara. If you squint hard enough, the restructured Fergie even has something of the pallid Marianne Faithfull about her. Borrowing looks from other women is a peculiarly female hobby. You often overhear women in hairdress-

ers asking for a Helena Christiansen cut, but it's rare to see a man asking for a "Jeremy Paxman" or a "Bobby Charlton".

Makeovers in general tend to be a woman thing: you don't often come across men who say they're gonna wash that girl right outta their hair. You don't spot Stephen Dorrell going for a session of aromatherapy, or a spending spree in Bond Street boutiques, to lift his spirits and take his mind off BSE.

This may be because men tend to spend about four minutes on their daily grooming, which includes shaving and spraying cologne on yesterday's work shirt, and they can see that something like Fergie's makeover looks high-maintenance. Even if Fergie could spare seven

hours every morning to paint her face and suck her cheeks in, she would need an extra staff of four.

She would also need a thick enough skin to step out of her front door in daylight looking like a plumper version of a blonched Michael Jackson. Diana hasn't been half as ambitious in her redesign, and even she still can't do her own hair.

**S**o what possessed Fergie? "She's had a lot of bad press recently," says Dr Skinner, "and you don't do something as dramatic as this by accident. She must have known what effect it would have, so maybe it's a signal that she is making a radical departure."

What, another one? Fergie seems to change her appearance as frequently as other people change their sheets, all the way from Sarah Shell-Suit to the latest version — Sarah Supermodel (though still not Sarah Sexy). Fergie has turned into a human pinball. Each time you think she is about to come to rest, she bucks off again like a bullet in a completely unpredictable direction. And she usually does her dramatic makeovers in public. She has indulged *Hello!* 15 times since January 1995 alone.

"It seems to me," says Dr Rowe, "she's never done anything to avoid the media. I wonder if she's one of these people who needs to be noticed? You experience your sense of existence in your relationship to other people. If you have a lot of

self-confidence, you don't need all the world to love you.

"But if you feel you don't have good, loving relationships with the people around you, and you feel you're very much on your own, and you don't feel good about yourself, and you feel that if you're not noticed you'll just disappear, then you'll do almost anything to get noticed. Fergie's been excluded from so much now. She even has to buy her own postage stamps. She's pretty isolated. The pictures are a way of saying, hey, I'm still here, take notice."

But where have all the freckles gone?

"Women often have hang-ups about freckles. You get teased about them at school and there's nothing you can do about them.

Maybe Fergie is miserable and she's covered them with white make-up."

Dr Skinner adds that "most blemishes on the face — scars, pigmentation, spots — we don't like. But freckles are somehow accepted, especially on children, though children can be self-conscious about them. You can't control freckles, so as an adult you might want to cover them up. Neil Kinnock has freckles. But a white face? It doesn't really go with red hair."

Dr Rowe points out that Fergie has debts, "and we all do all sorts of things when we need the money".

Dr Skinner scratches his head, as bemused as the rest of us by Fergie's antics: "She could have done it for a bet. Who knows?"

TWENTY years ago, a young doctor who had just qualified, exalting in his new status, would hurry around the network of tunnels which linked the various buildings in his teaching hospital.

At the time, it would not have occurred to him that one day there would be a suspicion that the pipes running along the roof of the tunnel and lagged in flaking, ageing asbestos might be responsible for killing him.

That doctor now has a mesothelioma, a tumour which attacks the pleura, the membrane which covers both

Asbestos link to lung disease and cancer ☐ BSE risk and children ☐ Side effects of plant extracts

## The killer dust

the lungs and lines the inner wall of the chest cavity, thereby making a sac for the lungs to lie in.

Mesotheliomas grow quickly into the lungs and produce a sticky fluid which collects in the pleural cavity.

Treatment is symptomatic, for there is no cure. The amount of exposure to asbes-

tos which will later lead to a mesothelioma is variable, but the tumour is rare unless the exposure, even if not particularly heavy, lasts for at least six months.

The anxious doctor, always scurrying to answer one emergency call after another and therefore slightly out of breath, would probably have

inhaled fibres from the asbestos far more deeply than if he had sauntered through the underground passages and taken normal breaths.

Not all types of asbestos are harmful. But the hazards of exposure to the fibres have recently hit the headlines after Westminster City Council was accused of rehousing families in a tower block heavily contaminated by it. Now two elderly people, who developed mesothelioma after playing in the streets of Leeds with asbes-



**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

tos dust during their childhood, have been in dispute over the damages awarded to them.

A lesser trouble for patients who have been exposed to asbestos is asbestosis. This is a widespread pneumoconio-

sis, a fibrosis of the lungs similar to that which used to develop in coal miners before the Second World War.

The fibres of asbestos are inhaled deep into the lung tissue where they trigger the fibrosis, which reduces the lungs' capacity and their ability to absorb oxygen.

As a result of the lung changes, the patient becomes increasingly breathless and is able to manage less and less physical activity.

Eventually, in some cases, respiratory failure develops. The asbestosis may also cause thickening of the pleura, which again can be associated with a fluid effusion.

## CJD and the age factor



THE scientists studying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and its links with BSE have concluded

that on the balance of probability, though little is known about the mechanisms of the spread of such diseases, children are unlikely to be any more at risk of catching it from eating beef than are adults.

In the Kuru outbreak in New Guinea, in which another transmissible encephalopathy was found among cannibals, children suffered

more from it than did adults. It is very possible that low resistance to the "prion" diseases is genetic and that most people will have a good resistance. It is difficult to be dogmatic about children's resistance to infection because many factors can influence it. Chronic infection can reduce it and in many children aged three to six months, when the maternal resistance acquired in utero is wearing off, a form of immune deficiency occurs. But the development of the defence system is only delayed and is usually normal by the age of 18 months. The problems of resistance in children to infection are complex and still not entirely understood. But in most cases, resistance seems to grow as they become adults.

## Herbal warning



A FAILING memory and fading libido are almost invariably associated with ageing. Doctors interested in herbal medicine might recommend that older patients take an extract of the leaves of *Ginkgo*

*biloba*, reputed to improve blood supply to the brain and sharpen the intellect, and the root of *Ginseng panax* to restore sexual prowess.

Ginseng is also reputed to boost stamina and concentration. But it can have side effects and interacts badly with some more orthodox medicines. It can compound the effect of antidepressants and tranquillisers, and should not be taken during any acute illness or by people with a psychiatric problem.

The side effects of ginseng are quite well-known. But few doctors would know that, for instance, hawthorn extract is a natural beta-blocker or that Pennyroyal, sometimes prescribed for indigestion, can be lethal.

The Pharmaceutical Press, which publishes *Martindale's*, the standard textbook on drugs, has introduced *Herbal Medicine* (£30), a 300-page companion volume on herbal medicine as a guide for doctors and other health workers, covering medical and culinary uses and interaction with other drugs.

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Jools Holland: funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal. The puzzling thing is how he got round to forming his relationship

## Jools the obscure

**A** lighthouse next, Jools Holland thinks. "We'll build it just there," he says, gesturing out of the window past the porter's room, the ladies' lavatory and the platform benches of the cute little railway station he has constructed.

One can only marvel both at the accommodating nature of the south London planning authorities and the grandeur of Holland's vision. His toy-town offices are called Helicon Mountain, after the Greek island where poets discovered their muse — a title which seems a touch flamboyant for a suburban hillcock with panoramic gasworks views.

**Mary Riddell meets Jools Holland, jazz genius and lighthouse builder, who used to find talking about his private life excruciating**

Until you walk down to the end of the road, where the small, stone-clad semis are the smarter versions of the nearby homes where Holland grew up, impoverished and flitting from the debt collectors.

Not that he makes a big deal about his past. "If you're going to be a musician, it's all right to come from a big city suburb and be expelled at 15. A bit like Eton and the Guards for old Tory Prime Ministers."

Holland's own finishing school was a stint with a band called Squeeze in the Seven-

ties, followed by *The Tube*, in which he was cast as Paula Yates' screen husband and castigated for swearing on air. The point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released shortly.

He is half-sitting, half-lying on a leather chaise longue in his station-master's office, and it is fair to say that he does not instantly evoke great allure. His jumper is ancient, his frayed cords a violent shade of pumpkin. In addition, he coughs as he scratches at his neck, very fast and rather nervously. He knows that — excellent musician as he is — the great fascination is how he came to be so, and, at 38, he still glorifies what sounds the bleakest of childhoods as a romantic adventure.

**H**is father drifting in and out of work, a travel agent, different homes, oil lamps because there was no money to pay the electricity bill and a family split up when his parents' marriage fell apart. "I don't think it damaged me. I'd prefer to substitute the word abuse with experience. The worst thing about my parents was not the split but the reunion."

"I was having a nice, frenzied time with no one to bother me when that happened. Not long after they got back together, I moved out." He was 15, with no qualifications but the ability, nurtured by an uncle in his grandma's front room, to play jazz piano.

It would be enough — not

only to sustain him but the family to which he would become guardian. His brother Christopher plays with the band, his brother Richard runs his recording studio, and the office is managed by a middle-aged cousin. But Jools Holland was never groomed for cosy domesticity.

His relationship with a hairdresser called Mary Leahy, with whom he had two children, fell apart on the day that he visited Bamburgh Castle to film for *The Tube*, met his 23-year-old mistress, Christabel,

about the difficulties. It's just that it wasn't like it's always been reported.

"We were at Bamburgh filming Bryan Ferry, and Christabel was there because she was a friend of his wife, Lucy. She didn't live at the castle — never has done — and that story must have been quite annoying for the people who did. So, no, it wasn't like the chatelaine floating down in a nightie with a cup of tea for the film crew."

"Afterwards we didn't meet again for ages. I've blanked exactly what happened, although I wrote it all down in a diary. Her husband, Lord Durham, had gone off with some woman, and Christabel was travelling through Newcastle when we met again."

"And that time we stayed together. Yes, I think we will get married now. There you are, a scoop. It would be nice. A big party, a lovely party, maybe fancy dress. Do people do that for weddings? Whatever the correct social code might be in the relationship between a member of the aristocracy and the south London boy made good, it was violently breached soon after their relationship began."

Jools's father stole Christabel's jewellery, worth £35,000, and served 15 months in prison. Jools has always said that his father was temporarily soft in the head, but the cause was clearly more complex. Drink? Envy?

"Well, maybe it was drink as well. It was a lot harder for him than for me. I wasn't the person who had to go to prison. I was just disappointed."

**Any mention of his partner Christabel reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching**

Lady Durham, and fell instantly in love. Or so the story goes. It looks for a while as if this version will stand, because any mention of Christabel, now his partner of almost a decade, reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching.

Does she, you wonder, work in addition to looking after the children — her son, Fred, 11, their five-year-old daughter, Mabel, and Jools's children, George and Rosie, 11 and ten, who visit at weekends? "Well yes, I think she does. She works here sometimes, arranging pictures."

The most puzzling thing is how Jools — funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal — actually got round to forming his relationship, let alone coping with the bitter rifts which it must have provoked.

"Look, I'm not shy," he says suddenly. "You have to be a bit of a show-off to succeed in music. And yes, you're right

## Discrimination that makes women sick

**Sue Corrigan on the health price high-achievers may pay**

**CAN SEXISM** make women sick? According to two American psychologists it can and, for millennia, it has.

Professors Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick, psychologists at two New York universities, say they have identified a syndrome that has afflicted talented and ambitious women at least since the days of the ancient Greeks.

The symptoms of what they have christened *Anxious Somatic Depression Syndrome* include eating disorders, depression, anxiety, severe headaches, insomnia and menstrual disturbances.

In a contentious new book, *The Cost of Competence*, to be published in the UK shortly, Silverstein and Perlick argue that these symptoms are "all components of a single disorder

modern research alike point, they say, to psychological problems developing among bright women whose fathers value their intelligence highly during their girlhoods, but whose mothers are discouraging.

"We believe that girls treated in this way in childhood suffer from later problems because they develop childhood aspirations and self-concepts built around abilities which go beyond the feminine ideal. Because they define themselves in ways not considered appropriate for females, they are never fully accepted."

**They cite the daughters of Freud, Marx and Darwin**

Clear examples from the past, they say, include Sigmund Freud's daughter Anna, Karl Marx's Eleanor, Charles Darwin's Henrietta and Albert Einstein's step-daughter Margot, who all suffered from chronic and mysterious illnesses, with depression, headaches and insomnia.

The authors measured the incidence among college students of purging — using laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting to control weight. Among women who reported that in childhood they placed much more importance on their own academic achievement than on their household skills, and that their fathers considered their mothers unintelligent, more than a third reported purging.

Roughly one in five of the students said either that they felt their mothers had been very limited by being female, or that they felt guilty over having better lives than their mothers, or that they minimised their own accomplishments so that their mothers would not feel bad about themselves.

Women who reported any one of these problems were about 20 times as likely to list symptoms of disordered eating and depressed mood as those who did not.

that for centuries has plagued women who have been brought up in gender-biased societies".

Large numbers of smart, ambitious women, they say, have paid with their health and peace of mind for wanting to achieve in areas traditionally reserved for males.

Their hypothesis is greeted with some scepticism by British psychologists and psychiatrists. "This is a narrowly feminist perspective," says Dr Janet Treasure, consultant psychiatrist at Bethlehem and Maudsley Hospital's Eating Disorders Unit in south London. "It is only one way of looking at the issues involved and is far from being proved."

The two American psychologists insist, however, that healthcare experts are failing to recognise a persistent pattern of illness. Victims of their newly-named syndrome are "women who define themselves nontraditionally" — females who reject confinement within the domestic sphere traditionally reserved for women.

Historical evidence and

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# All good exams come in threes

The Dearing reforms echo 1944, but they will be none the worse for that, says Paul Barker

The rise of the meritocracy continues. Sir Ron Dearing's nosebagful of new proposals for school exams confirms it. Sift through the chaff of education-speak (why do the people who oversee teachers always use such robotic language?), and you will see that essentially Sir Ron is continuing the trend away from the homogenised, pasteurised school.

This shift began when it became clear that in many places, especially in cities, the comprehensive school and mixed-ability classes would never deliver the promised goods, much less (as egalitarians hoped) the Promised Land. Instead of a single, imposed pattern, the ideal is now for the school to be a kaleidoscope — a multitude of patterns.

A kaleidoscope has three sides. So did the great watershed Education Act of 1944. It foresaw a grand tripartite system of free grammar schools, technical schools and, for the rest, secondary modern schools. Like all reforms in British schools since the late Victorians made elementary education compulsory, the Act avowedly aimed at catching up with the Germans.

Sir Ron makes the same comparison (and tosses in the Japanese for good measure). But the vision was never achieved. Few technical schools were created. Eventually the grammar school cream was stirred into the secondary modern whey. And that, for the time being, was that.

But Sir Ron is reinventing, if not the wheel, then at least the kaleidoscope. On the one hand, there will be special, tougher, A levels — what the Education Secretary, Gillian Shepherd, calls "the gold standard". The belief that some (such as English) have become easier to pass must be rooted out. On the other hand, there will be new "applied" A levels in such subjects as tourism or catering (a started-up version of what until now have been called Advanced GNVQs). These are the alternative goals for pupils who want to stay on until 17 or 18, and who should, in the national interest, be encouraged to do so.

At present, however, there are pupils who find it frustrating to be obliged even to stay on to the legal leaving age of 16. They are sometimes, ludicrously, put in for GCSE exams, with no hope of getting better than the dimmest grades. They may even hang around after that, for lack of alternative ambition. (The present bob-a-nob school funding system tempts heads to cling on to pupils. There's cash in it.) But one fifth of pupils don't pass a GCSE, at any grade, in the crucial subjects of English and maths.

This is the third side of Sir Ron's kaleidoscope. These pupils will be allowed to become semi-detached, spending less time in school and more on work training — to their teachers' and fellow-pupils' relief, as well as their own.

History never quite repeats itself. Far more children were consigned to secondary modern schools than will now go off down this half-work, half-school channel. It shows how our society has changed, partly through the successes of teachers (sometimes against the odds), and partly because of the new pattern of jobs.

The middle ranges of society have swelled and, mostly, prospered. Their emblematic home is much-mocked Milton Keynes: as good a symbol as one could find of the white-collar way that most people live now. I can imagine applied A levels in tourism being in great demand here.

But the unskilled are shrinking into what is often called the underclass. They are clustered in certain city districts (Hackney, Newham) or desolate towns (Oldham, Hartlepool). It will be a generation before we know whether Sir Ron's third way has helped them, or hindered them still more.

Meanwhile, the meritocrats will rise and rise, clutching their hard-won gold-standard diplomas. In a deal specifically squared with Labour, Sir Ron will look next at the universities, where a similar tripartite division is already emerging: the half-dozen world-class institutions, the two dozen top-of-the-range, and the also-rans.

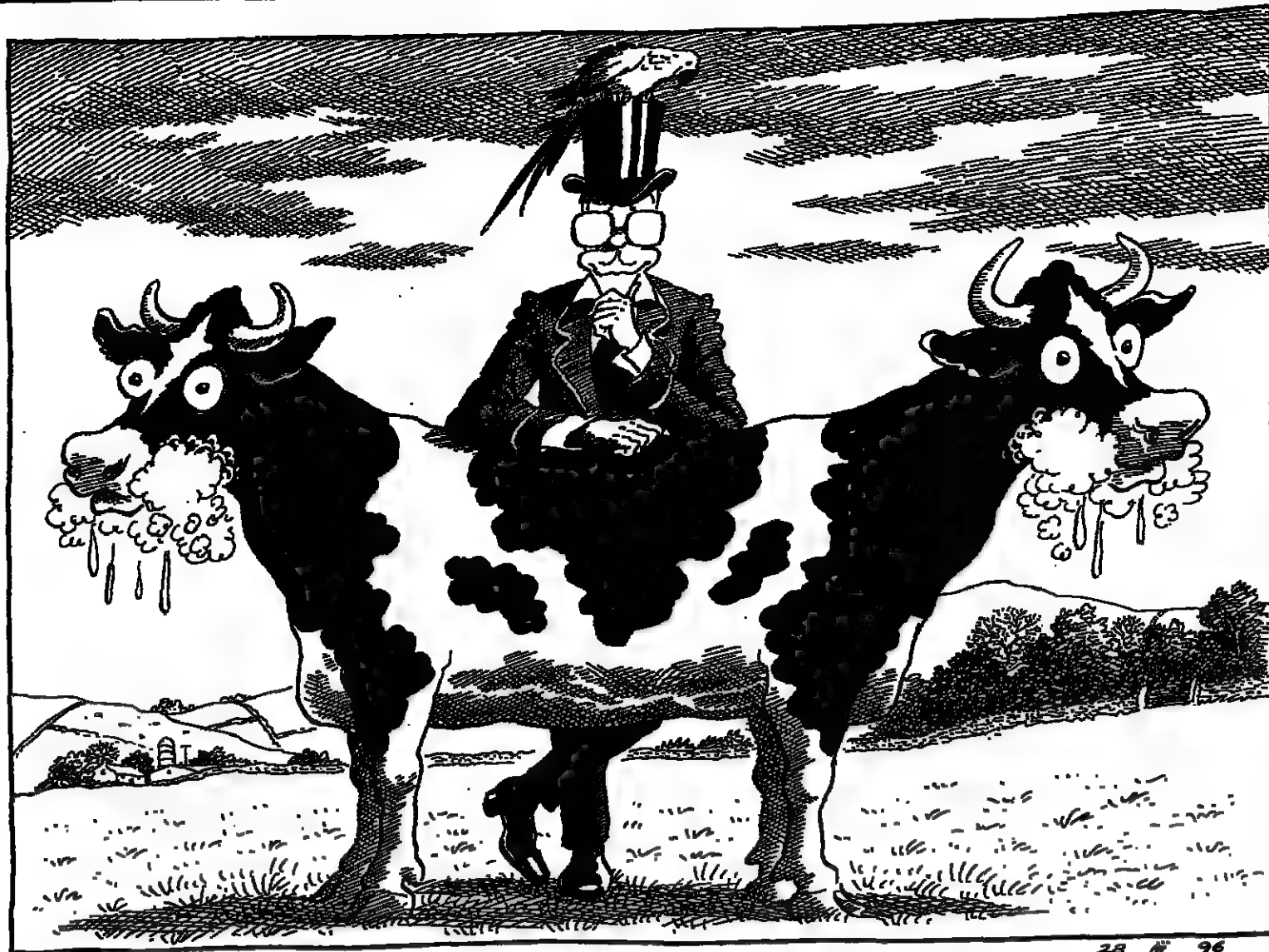
All of this is part of a growing cross-party consensus on education. Remember that the 1960s orthodoxy was first questioned by the last Labour Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan. Like John Major he is not a graduate, and perhaps for that reason he knows the value of meritocratic achievements.

The most notorious remarks in our education history (public school and Oxford) were uttered by Anthony Crosland, the minister who launched the now-abandoned homogenisation. They are reported in his wife's memoir: "If it's the last thing I do, I'm going to destroy every grammar school in England," he said. "And Wales. And Northern Ireland." Why not Scotland? I asked out of pure curiosity. "Because their schools come under the Secretary of State for Scotland," he began to laugh at his inability to destroy their grammar schools.

The present Prime Minister may not get the swathe of grammar schools revivals he called for in a speech last week, but these new proposals will eventually deliver something very close.

Sir Ron is the man trusted, by all parties, to carry the torch of progress. In old arithmetic books, one of the first lessons was the Rule of Three. In Latin classes, the first text pupils read told them that Julius Caesar divided Gaul into three parts. It is, traditionally, a magic number. Let's hope it casts the spell.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.



## Not just bad luck

The Government failed to get a grip on BSE and has only itself to blame

I have received an interesting letter from Dr Anthony Cullen, an agricultural microbiologist with veterinary experience. He confirms some points I made about BSE on Monday, and adds others. He agrees that it is an old, but rare, disease in cattle, and recalls treating a cow with "typical signs of BSE" in 1962. He agrees that BSE is more likely to be a cow rather than a sheep, and points out that only one experiment, in the United States in 1979, has succeeded in infecting cows with scrapie by direct injection of sheep brain material.

In sheep, a susceptibility gene determines the infection by scrapie. If a similar mechanism exists in other animals, then human beings would only be infected with BSE if they had a genetic susceptibility, in addition to coming into contact with the organism. That would help to account for so large a cow epidemic of BSE producing so few human cases. Dr Cullen adds an interesting comment on the epidemic of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of cannibalism in New Guinea. "The women took the brain tissue of the dead person and pushed it into a bamboo tube before it was cooked. It was believed that it was the act of stuffing these tubes which led to spicules of bamboo inoculating the women with infected material into the bloodstream through minute cuts to thumbs or fingers. It seems likely, on general principles, that a small dose would be infective if inoculated, but a large dose would be required by mouth. The cases [of BSE] in people have often been in meat-handlers."

Dr Cullen adds modestly that he is not an expert in BSE or scrapie. Nonetheless, his experience confirms that BSE is almost certainly a long-standing disease in cattle, which does not seem to have caused identifiable trouble to human beings in the past. His reference to the susceptibility gene — which could have been widely transmitted in cows by a single bull through AI — and his suggestion of the possible significance of injection, all strengthen the view that any human epidemic caused by BSE is likely to remain a limited one.

But BSE has become a matter of panic, rather than of science. It is also becoming increasingly important as there is a panic, damaging to Britain's relations with Europe, dangerous to the future of the Government. Many people are now genuine-

ly frightened of eating beef: even those who regard the risk as negligible are put off by the fact that there is a risk at all. Parents are alarmed by the risk to their children. The hamburger, whether made of British or any other beef, has become an object of almost superstitious horror. It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. That is not much of an argument to use to the British public. 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning. If one

beef, not about European beef. We see Europe as wanting to have it both ways. The motto of the EU is supposed to be that of the three musketeers: "One for all, all for one." When it comes to British beef, we seem to be left to fight alone, despite the offer of an unspecified amount of cash.

Yesterday on the Today programme, a Swedish lady explained that Britain could not expect to win every issue in Europe. (The Swedish accent can sound unbearably condescending to the British ear.) The trouble is that we do not think that we win any issues nowadays. The European beef ban has come at a difficult moment, before the Turin conference and the IGC. How can any British Government make concessions on such issues as majority voting when the British believe that they will always be ruthlessly outvoted?

Any European observer who imagines that this would be easier for Tony Blair and the Labour Party does not understand the present mood of the British public. We feel that we have been getting the wrong end of the European deal; we feel that British interests are always subordinate to those of the Franco-German alliance. Tony Blair cannot afford to fight the next general election as the Kohl-Chirac candidate. As with the beef panic, the psychology of the British reaction to Europe has become a political reality in its own right. The Government's handling of the BSE epidemic raises the same issues as the Scott report. That left an unforgettable picture of a Government which had lost its administrative grip. One could even feel sorry for ministers, who seemed to be as bewildered by the system they had to operate as anyone outside might be. There does not seem to have been much to choose between their handling of BSE and that of arms to Iraq — except that the public cares much more about BSE. The same doubts exist about the honesty of a series of official statements. After 1989, the scientific position, on the

best available advice, was that there was very little risk of BSE infecting human beings. Ministers, particularly John Gummer at agriculture and Kenneth Clarke at health, interpreted that as "no risk", though that was neither an honest nor a prudent interpretation of the scientific evidence, and has since been contradicted by further evidence.

The Government failed for nearly ten years to get a grip either on the epidemic itself or on the safety measures in the abattoirs. If there had been comprehensive action after 1986 or 1989, the epidemic could probably have been contained at a much lower level, and British beef might now be as safe as some ministers say it is. This lack of grip is only too evident. The Minister of Agriculture thinks slaughtering is necessary; the Secretary of State for Health thinks it is not justified on the scientific evidence. The Treasury does not want to pay for it. The Prime Minister thinks it should go ahead. One has to go back almost as far as the Hoare-Laval Pact, 60 years ago, to find a similar spectacle of a Government which had so lost control of events.

This Government has also completely lost the confidence of the farming community and of most people in the countryside. The farmers were involved in this catastrophe by unpublicised changes in the practices of feed merchants and in the relevant government regulations. Nearly half the cattle farms, and more than half of the specialist beef producers, have still never had a case of BSE. Even those who have suffered from BSE are involved in a catastrophe not of their own making — they never decided to feed cow meat to cows, and were almost all unaware that this was what they were doing. Those farmers who have had no cases, whose herds are BSE-free, are producing wholly safe beef which is regarded by their customers as wholly suspect. Both groups find their survival threatened, and they blame it on the weakness of ministers and on lack of frankness in the past.

No doubt the Government is unlucky. It started the year hoping for a political recovery. As soon as ministers thought they had got over Scott, by a one vote victory, they found themselves faced with "mad cow" disease. Who would have expected that? But politicians make their own luck. When governments fail to get on top of events, events will always get on top of them.

## Labour bound by ballot

Peter Riddell

on Blair's bid to outflank revolt

Tony Blair's decision to ballot Labour Party members this autumn on a draft of its manifesto is his most important initiative since the rewriting of Clause Four. It is intended not only to demonstrate the substance of new Labour, but also to improve the prospects for success in office.

Mr Blair is haunted by the failure of the last two Labour Governments. He believes they foundered in part because they lost the support of party activists. There was a conflict between the policies of the party at an election and subsequent constraints which leaders faced in office. This produced constant tension between the party and government, as revealed in the diaries and memoirs of the 1960s and 1970s.

The antics of the party conference and of the national executive, including left-wing ministers such as Tony Benn, in rejecting government policies were a constant irritation to Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. This fostered a myth of betrayal, and fuelled a dramatic swing to the left after the party lost office in 1970 and 1979. At the party conference in the autumn of 1979, MPs and former ministers were booed by delegates, and treated as traitors. They were accused of abandoning the policies of the party. The only way the leadership could assert authority was by relying on trade union bloc votes to counteract constituency activists.

Mr Blair is trying to avoid these traps by caution about promises and by binding in the party, and also Labour MPs, from the start. The most distinctive feature of Mr Blair's leadership has been his desire to go over the heads of party activists — as well as union leaders — to the wider membership. One member, one vote in party decisions has worked strongly in his favour, not least because the membership has risen by nearly a half to 365,000 over the past two years, and many of these new members are keen Blairites.

Not only did Mr Blair receive strong support from individual party members when he was elected leader in July 1994, but he also won the 85 per cent backing of members over the rewriting of Clause Four last April. This was despite early opposition from some left-wing activists and votes against change by the two largest unions.

The party constitution was amended last October to allow for membership ballots on major policy and other questions. The party conference, where the unions still have 50 per cent of the votes, remains sovereign, but in practice a mass ballot will have greater legitimacy. A series of policy documents appearing over a few months will be brought together in an early version of the manifesto in June, before being debated at the party conference in October and then going to a ballot shortly afterwards.

Mr Blair is adamant that this will be a tight document — no "shopping list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. Instead, there are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different from the Tories, such as the individual learning accounts for training being published later today. Gordon Brown says detailed proposals on tax will not come until the full election manifesto, in part because of the probability of further tax cuts in November.

June's document will avoid the detailed and ultimately counter-productive pledges on tax, child benefits and pensions which John Smith made before the 1992 election. The statement is likely to be sparse — making a virtue of its absence of wish-lists and its stress on hard choices, with resources being shifted within existing budgets. The risk is that it will be bland. Following the 1987 and 1992 defeats, Labour leaders are obsessed with not saying anything which allows the Tories to accuse them of favouring higher public spending and taxes.

The process matters as much as the substance. As Mr Blair said, the ballot "will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government". The unstated corollary is that activists should complain later about the programme, and if, or rather when, ministers have to take tough economic decisions in office. Mr Blair wants to ensure that not only are no extravagant promises made but that the party is explicitly committed to what is promised.

The move may be bold, but it should not be risky. Members are being offered a straight yes or no: the main doubt is over the level of turnout. But merely by launching the exercise, Mr Blair has given the leadership and the party a focus and something to do over the long pre-election period. The prize is that Labour could take office in a year or so on a realistic programme which the party has endorsed. He wants to show that Blairism is backed by the party. But he will not confuse a desire to win with unconditional support. Mr Blair could still face plenty of rumblings and party rows if he wins power. New Labour may be in control, but old Labour is not dead yet.

## Labour day

NEW YORK is to unbutton its embargo and embrace Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who yesterday announced that every cloth-cap member of his party will be able to vote on its manifesto, is to be guest of honour at a £750-a-head lunch next month organised by the British American Chamber of Commerce. He will be given the sort of treatment that would have Donald Trump salivating over his fouldard tie.

The seven-courser at the Empire State Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt hotel is uncharted water for Labour. Previous speakers at the chamber's big events include Baroness Thatcher and John Major but Blair is the first Opposition leader, let alone Labour politician, to speak to the gathering in living memory.

Whenever Neil Kinnock crossed the Atlantic in the 1980s, he was kept waiting by the American big guns, or passed on to low-ranking officials. But before his big day in New York, Blair will be holding summit-style talks with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, men of his own age with whom he is politically sympathetic. To show he is not all left-sided, however, he

will also be meeting Nixon's Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. Tables for ten are being hawked round the Big Apple at £7,500 each. Champagne socialists may be disappointed that the cash isn't going to new Labour coffers — but, my dears, what an honour for Tony.

● Literary news: Bertelsmann, the publishing giant from the Ruhr Valley, has written to Thomas



● Could Terry Major-Ball have found his own, idiosyncratic sol-

Hardy and, unable to find his address, sent it to his local library in Dorchester. "Dear Thomas Hardy," says the letter, "what do you think about the use of computers in libraries?" County librarian Carleton Earl is unimpressed: "Geography's all right, but they should jolly well mug up on their history."

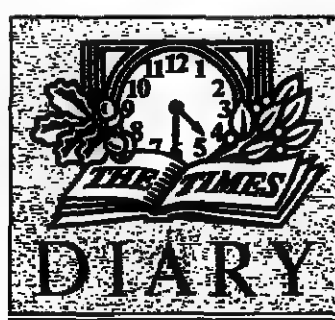
### Yorkie bar

YET MORE bovine information from Harriet. My uncle Roddy's confused mooer. Those two pillars of Britishness, the clergy and farmers, have succumbed to the beef madness.

Beef is off at Bishopthorpe, the home of Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, and a fixture on the northern meat circuit. Much missed already are Hope's home-made cottage pies — guaranteed to make even the sturdiest Mothers' Union member tremble — and the pastry piled under a fiendishly talented palace chef.

Meanwhile, in a survey in Farming News, it is reported that while 97 per cent of farmers vow to have roast beef for Sunday lunch, 65 per cent feebly confessed to having been put off their offal.

● Could Terry Major-Ball have found his own, idiosyncratic sol-



ution to the beef crisis? I spotted him, napkin to his chin, tucking in heartily to a kangaroo steak the other night in London's West End.

### Priceless

LISTEN for the dull clank of mauls on chest at Phillips Auctioneers next month as Remains of a certain age bid for relics from the love lives of Brigitte Bardot, Jean Shrimpton and Jean Simmons.

The lots include lipstick holders, watches and rings given to the three by their one-time lovers. The women clearly ignored the words of Zsa Zsa Gabor, no slouch in these matters: "Give back the ring, if you must dahling," she advised, "but keep the diamond."

Of particular interest is a gold watch in the sale, given to Miss Shrimpton, by the actor Terence

Stamp. Across the face is written "Shrimpton" while the back is engraved: "With love Terry". Shrimpton writes tersely of the watch in her autobiography: "I gave that away in later years. I didn't need reminding of my name."

### Bath oils

THE MARQUESS of Bath and his wifelet were scrutinising Gray Jolliffe's saucy cartoons with an intensity that only a connoisseur of erotic art could muster on Tuesday night at an exhibition in the Grosvenor House hotel. He explained he was not inclined to buy any of the works: "I prefer to paint my own."

The pigtailed aristocrat's latest project is a series of heads of his ancestors around a spiral staircase at Longleat. "I have already completed a series of heads of my loved ones," he says, "now I am doing the crowned heads."

### Palace pies

THE BINDIS and bhajis which I revealed are ferried regularly from Kuldeep Makhni's international restaurant in Mayfair to Buckingham Palace are not the only take-away meals enjoyed by members



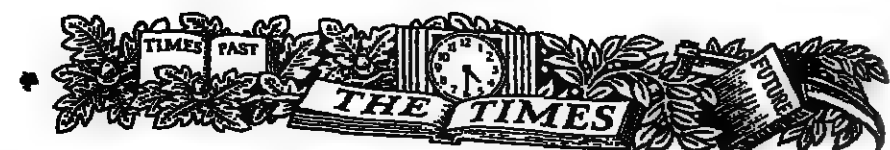
Princess Margaret take-away

of the Royal Family. A restaurant in Kensington which was frequented by Princess Margaret in the 1960s — and named Maggie Jones at the time of her marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones — supplies Kensington Palace with pies.

"The ladies-in-waiting come down with their bowls and the kitchen makes something up for them," says a regular. "They love the pies — fisherman's and steak and kidney. Can't get enough of them."

P.H.S





## ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

The A level should not be debased

Sir Ron Dearing certainly deserves full marks for effort. His 150-page report on the future of education for those aged between 16 and 19 makes nearly 200 recommendations. Sir Ron hopes his suggestions will simplify the structure of qualifications for school-leavers, increase the numbers who have something to show for their studies, broaden the range of important skills acquired and improve standards overall. It is an ambitious programme, and several of his proposals are worthwhile. But, far from strengthening the A level, the "gold standard" of the education system, there are reasons to fear that Sir Ron's suggestions may leave it subtly debased.

The area most immediately in need of improvement is technical and vocational education. The system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A-levels. The vocational qualifications are widely perceived to be less rigorously policed. Nevertheless, the number of pupils who do not complete the course is still higher than among those attempting A levels.

Sir Ron, rightly, argues GNVQs would command greater respect if external assessment were used more widely. Outside verification that standards have been reached will enhance the credibility of the qualification. Other recommendations intended to increase the status of GNVQs are more questionable. Bringing together the two regulatory bodies, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, as well as constructing the initial syllabuses to allow pupils to switch at an early stage between A level and GNVQ in similar fields appears efficient. Some pupils may gain from the flexibility but others could suffer from a levelling down of standards between technical and academic courses, over time.

The proposal to rename the GNVQ the "applied A level" is also of dubious virtue. Calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education. GNVQs will command respect by guar-

anteeing over time a nationally agreed level of expertise in a specific field. They should seek to command respect in their own right, not by riding on the reputation of another examination.

The A level itself is under threat in two small, but significant, ways. The first is Sir Ron's suggested new umbrella qualification, the "National Advanced Diploma". This is designed to ensure school-leavers study across a broader spectrum but, in doing so, runs counter to the spirit of specialisation that makes the A level system so attractively rigorous. Moreover, the Diploma treats technical and academic qualifications in such a way as to potentially lessen the distinction between the two. The Diploma is also designed to entrench "key skills" in "number" and "literacy". Sir Ron's aim is admirable. But if pupils cannot count and communicate by the time they are 16 a new piece of paper is unlikely to help.

The other erosion of excellence is the ascendancy of the "modular" approach to A levels. Sir Ron wisely notes that the modules are popular with A level students because they allow sections of the course to be sat, and re-sat, in such a way as to bump up marks overall. Fewer and fewer pupils earn the marks to pass their A levels at the final exam. A level grades have been rising slowly even though a far larger proportion of the school population now take A levels, arousing strong suspicion that with, among other things, the growth of modular teaching, the qualification is easier to acquire.

Sir Ron is alive to the weakness of the modular system but that does not stop him arguing for an eventual unified approach where half the marks for the A level come from modules, half from the final exam. Modular teaching is the enemy of excellence and a hidden danger in an ever-more competitive world. Sir Ron should not be giving it any encouragement. The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge, sophisticated skills and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics.

## PAIN FOR GAIN

Cruelty, charity and the RSPCA

Britain's charities are the mirrors which reflect our concerns as a society. From these institutions — which span the range from the educational and the religious to the recreational and the eccentric — one learns as much about the moral inclinations of Britons as one does from Parliament, from the English language and from the country's press. No charity has been more emblematic of these concerns than the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

Yet the RSPCA, today, is a body which appears to have lost a little of its direction. The country's largest charity — it has over 200 branches, each registered separately with the Charity Commission — was conceived originally to address everyday acts of cruelty and harm to animals. Painfully tethered dogs, maltreated cats, fox cubs, badgers and swans that swallow fishing tackle were the familiar subjects of its campaigns. As a nation, Britons abhor wanton cruelty to animals and the RSPCA, by popular support, was the body which best endeavoured to protect animals from unthinking inhumanity.

The animal charity, however, has veered some distance away from its original, unimpeachable trajectory. The Charity Commissioners, who oversee the activities of institutions such as the RSPCA, have now alerted the animal body to a potentially costly risk: stop campaigning against those activities which are "beneficial to the community" or you will endanger your

charitable status. The commissioners have in mind, specifically, the RSPCA's campaign against animal vivisection, commonly conducted by the medical community in pursuit of their scientific ends.

The commissioners are right, and their directive must not be misunderstood. Under a complex mixture of statute and common law, charities are organisations which enjoy tax exemptions by particular virtue of their activities: these must be for the public benefit, and can include animal welfare. But the courts have refused consistently to recognise political objects as "charitable", and this must include a campaign to put a stop to vivisection. Such experiments are entirely lawful, and a campaign to procure a change in the law is an inherently political campaign.

The RSPCA is not the first major charity to fall foul of the commissioners in this way. Oxfam was given warning often over its campaigns to end apartheid in South Africa, and over pamphlets urging the cancellation of Third World debt. The point is not that such campaigns — whether against apartheid or animal vivisection — are inherently undesirable; in fact, both, in their respective times, have enjoyed considerable popular appeal in this country. The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax. There is no reason why it should, if it exceeds the bounds allowed to it by law.

## OUR FRETFUL RELATIONS

A good judgement from the Strasbourg court

At a time when decisions taken by pan-European institutions are not popular with everyone in Britain, let us pause to cheer a commonsense judgment issued yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. British judges had previously insisted that a journalist, William Goodwin, reveal the name of a source who had been assured anonymity; they had fined the reporter when he refused. The ECHR rejected these decisions — and rightly so.

Mr Goodwin has emerged victorious from a long and wearisome struggle. Back in 1989 and only a few months out of university in his first job on *The Engineer*, he received a leak of some internal figures from inside a company which was in the course of raising fresh capital. Alerted to Mr Goodwin's knowledge before anything was printed, the company won an injunction to suppress any mention of its name, let alone its financial plans. Mr Goodwin was then pressed to reveal his source. He consistently refused, lost cases in the High Court and House of Lords and was fined £5,000.

As similar cases have revealed, British judges think they smell humbug when they are faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source. In the House of Lords, Lord Bridge wondered out loud at Mr Goodwin's "extraordinary attitude that he was entitled to set the law at naught. He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law."

To no avail Mr Goodwin's lawyers pointed out that their client had no problem with the law in general but only with the courts' request for a name which his word to his source prevented him revealing. However the courts maintained that the company's access to justice overrode Mr Goodwin's promise.

Contrast Lord Bridge's vain pronouncements with yesterday's judgment. The judges of Strasbourg point out that two competing public interests, freedom of expression and justice, must be seen in proportion. Only exceptional difficulties and dangers — prevention of crime or risk to life and limb — should justify a demand for a journalist to break his word. The fine imposed on Mr Goodwin was not "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of the company's rights under English law.

The European Court of Human Rights lost its own sense of proportion at the end of its judgment. Journalists should be entitled to compensation, the judges opined, for the "mental anguish and anxiety of being threatened with imprisonment for obeying their conscience and their ethical duties." Mr Goodwin had not sought compensation for his mental anguish since he quite rightly considers this kind of legal fight a natural and occupational hazard of journalism. Relations between the press and authorities are essentially fretful and should remain able to be so.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 6XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Some lessons and warnings from Britain's BSE disaster

From Professor Harold Stern

Sir, The recent pronouncements of ministers on the safety of British beef provide a prime example of dangerous, authoritative conclusions that consistently ignore basic facts. In particular, statements that the hazard of BSE resides only in the brain and spinal cord and other official and that "quality" beef, such as steaks and ribs, is safe could well be erroneous. Muscle is riddled with nerve fibres in communication with the central nervous system and along which the infecting agent could travel.

The fact that it is only in the brain and spinal cord and some other official that the agent of BSE can be detected by animal inoculation in the laboratory is nothing but an indication of the insensitivity of the techniques currently available to us.

Moreover, to ask a committee to consider whether children are more susceptible to the disease is ridiculous. It is all right to institute measures to protect children but to continue to expose young adults to the infection?

There is no information available on the infecting dose for humans, but this may not be large, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) has been effectively transmitted by corneal transplants taken from patients without clinical evidence of the disease.

The occurrence of CJD in 10 young adults in one country, some undoubtedly exposed to infected cattle, within a relatively short period of time (report and leading article, March 21) is unique in medical literature. No reputable medical scientist can ignore this fact, and extreme caution should therefore be exercised when discussing the safety of beef.

This must be the case when dealing with a clinically dreadful disease, which is, as far as we know, invariably fatal and for which there is no treatment.

Only complete eradication of the cattle population can remedy the problem. The number of cases of BSE may now be diminishing but we cannot be certain that the infection will not eventually stabilise in herds, with

increasing length of the incubation period and increasing numbers of animals apparently healthy but infected.

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD STERN  
(Professor Emeritus of Virology,  
University of London),  
16 Hill Rise,  
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11,  
March 27.

From Mr Henry Edmunds

Sir, In 1988 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated a scrapie monitoring scheme for sheep. I was one of the original participants in this and have supported it subsequently. A proportion of my sheep are culled each year and their brains examined for the presence of scrapie. In the event of being able to demonstrate two years free of the disease the flock then achieves export status.

This scheme would, in my view, be equally applicable to cattle. Each herd should be tested in this way and only those achieving a BSE-free status allowed to market their stock through the normal channels. In this way all herds carrying the disease would be identified.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY EDMUNDS,  
The Cholderton Estate,  
The Estate Office,  
Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
March 26.

From Mr Andrew Smyth

Sir, As a manufacturer, my company exists in a fiercely competitive environment relying on our own efforts for its success or failure. We would not expect to be shown much consideration if we made products which were dangerous to our customers.

Agriculture, by contrast, is a business whose success is further subsidised by taxpayers. Not content with this, when selling products which might kill their customers, it seems that farmers, to use the word in today's extraordinary letter from Mr Casper Bush, "require" compensation for their mistakes.

What hope is there for any responsibility in an industry which is apparently so completely cocooned from the effects of its own mistakes?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW SMYTH,  
15 Camden Square, NW1,  
March 26.

From Professor Sam Ahmedzai

Sir, On your letters page (March 25) Mr Derek Nimmo asks whether the Beefsteak Club should change its name to the Lamb Chop Club and the chief proprietor of a restaurant reports that 47 per cent of his diners are still eating beef.

Oh dear, it really is spreading.

Yours faithfully,  
SAM AHMEDZAI,  
23a Southbourne Road,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
March 25.

From Mr Richard Smith

Sir, Profit. Public health scare. Market collapse. Compensation. Profit.

Not exactly an agricultural revolution, just more of the same old tricks. The only difference with this method of subsidy farming is that first you put the consumers' health at risk and then you get the consumer to pay to have the danger removed.

Have we all gone soft in the head?

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. SMITH,  
Wanley Hill,  
Theydon Road, Epping, Essex,  
March 26.

From Mr B. R. Yates

Sir, Your headline (March 27) announces, "Cabinet may accept call for slaughter". At last, a useful suggestion, but the question remains whether we should slaughter the whole Cabinet or just those members who have reached the end of their useful working lives.

Yours faithfully,  
B. R. YATES,  
Aston House,  
Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

### National interest in Europe's union

From Mr Michael Welsh

Sir, If justification were needed for Helmut Kohl's Louvain speech (report, February 3; leading article, February 9), when he warned of the potential for disaster if the European Union were to break up, it is supplied by Bill Cash's piece, "A party of the nation" (March 21).

There may be a case for saying that Britain's national interest can be served only if she opts out of the process of European integration, but Cash goes much further. According to him, if 14 other independent sovereign states are not prepared voluntarily to accept an entirely British agenda, they should be compelled to do so, perhaps by use of a veto of the inter-governmental conference.

This is certainly nationalist, but it is profoundly undemocratic. The inevitable result would be a return to economic nationalism, protection and the balkanisation of Western Europe.

Conservatives in the House of Commons and elsewhere who think of themselves as Euro-sceptic must wonder whether they go along with all this.

Sentences such as "We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate" have the authentic ring of Bismarck and the 1930s dictators; they have nothing whatever to do with Disraeli's generous vision of a party of One Nation.

The test to be applied is how we — let alone Bill Cash — would have reacted if a similar piece, *mutatis mutandis*, had appeared in *Die Zeit*.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL WELSH  
(Chief Executive),  
Action Centre for Europe Ltd,  
181 Town Lane, Whittle Le Woods,  
Chorley, Lancashire,  
March 22.

### China and Taiwan

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, I was shocked by the leading articles on the Taiwan question in your paper (March 12 and 19). Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times, and the Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair. This is a fact recognised by the international community.

Since the People's Republic of China was founded, most countries in the world, including the United States, have recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as a part of China.

Nothing but the claim that denies this fact is "dangerous nonsense" as you argue, and the Taiwan question brooks no foreign interference, in whatever form or under whatever pretext. It is the sacred right of each and every sovereign state and a fundamental principle of international law to safeguard national unity and territorial integrity.

The recent tension in the Taiwan Strait was entirely a result of the Taiwan authorities' advocating "Taiwan's independence" and their intensified efforts in creating "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas". The United States shoulders unshirkable

responsibility for this as well. It is the US rather than China that has violated the three Sino-US joint communique.

The wrong decisions of the United States to sell arms to Taiwan and permit Lee Teng-hui to visit the United States encouraged the pro-independence forces in Taiwan to go further, thus creating new serious obstacles to the settlement of the Taiwan question and the development of Sino-US relations.

The Chinese Government stands for, and has been working persistently for, a peaceful reunification of China based on the formula of one country, two systems. China's policy of not recognising the use of force is not directed against the Taiwan compatriots, but against foreign forces interfering in China's reunification and attempts in Taiwan seeking independence.

Peaceful reunification is the common aspiration of all the Chinese people. The Chinese Government and people will never permit the separation of Taiwan from China.

Sincerely yours,  
JIANG ENZHU,  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China,  
49-51 Portland Place, W1.

### Claims to the fame of Robin Hood

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, Yorkshire must reclaim its own. Nottingham's adoption of Robin Hood has always been an opportunist publicity stunt, and as you suggest in your leader (March 26), the outlaw is essentially a Yorkshireman. Indeed, the most precise map reference for him in the earliest known ballad has him raiding traffic on the A1, not far from Wetherby.

There seems to be a reluctance to appreciate this, even in his home county, however. The magnificent Robin Hood exhibition organised last year at the Olden Book Festival (for whose 300-page catalogue I supplied a brief foreword) is all set to travel to Warsaw, Zurich, Aarhus, Groningen, Berlin, and possibly New York... but old York has rejected it.

A proposal for it to be staged in the Guild Hall later this year collapsed, apparently because the city's Leisure Services were unable to beg, borrow or ambush any cases for the display.

Yours etc,  
BRIAN ALDERSON,  
23 Victoria Road,  
Richmond, North Yorkshire,  
March 26.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, It was not the Victorians, as Andrew Pierce suggests (report, March 26), who "turned Robin Hood into the Earl of Huntingdon, to make him a more respectable hero".

In the 1880s the great Harvard ballad scholar, Francis J. Child, wrote in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*: "Anthony Munday, towards the end of the sixteenth century, made a play... in which Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, being outlawed, takes refuge in Sherwood, with his chaste love Matilda... and changes his name to Robin Hood, hers to Maid Marian" (headnote to ballad 117 in volume III).

Child adds in a footnote that the first mention of Robin's noble extraction seems to be in Grafton's Chronicle of 1569. I have no doubt that it was a popular tradition long before that.

May not the name Robin Hood be simply a corruption of "robber in the wood"? Presumably every wooded area in the country will have had one of these. Yorkshire, as your third leader points out, has a vast Robin Hood folklore of its own: Child denies extensively in another of his headnotes why the particular claims of Barnsdale as a rival to Sherwood as the Merry Men's HQ.

Nottingham is indeed fortunate in having won the battle for the noble outlaw's patronage in the popular mind and would surely be crazy to give it up.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,  
34 West End,  
Haddenham, Cambridge,  
March 26.

### Wingate's reputation

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, I am much saddened by the news (report and pictures, March 20) that Orde Wingate's son has been forced to sell his father's medals and papers. I am also concerned by the remarks in your report, "whose behind-the-scenes operations turned the tide of the Second World War in Burma", and "[he] single-handedly turned the tide of war in Burma."

I took part in the second Chindit operation in 1944 and have written a book on the subject. I have always had a high regard for Orde Wingate, only wishing that he was less odd, but I believe that claims as sweeping as these can only further alienate those who continue to be bitterly opposed to him. In my judgment, Orde Wingate had brilliant ideas and these, particularly the greatly extended scope for air supply, did much to assist in the reconquest of Burma. He also did much to persuade the British that the Japanese were not invincible in the jungle.

Additionally, he gave the Japanese the false idea that they could operate effectively over country in which his own columns had operated in 1943.

But the tide turned when the regular elements of the 14th Army, led superbly by General Slim, met the Japanese attack of 1944 head-on and refused to yield. The Chindits inconveniently the Japanese considerably, and this their commanders have acknowledged, but we would be wise not to spoil the case of a most remarkable man by attributing to him more than the events warrant.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,  
15 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge,  
March 20.

### Test for chairpersons

From Mr A. P. Walter

Sir, I am indebted to the researchers from the Centre for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, who concluded that a person who has had an excess of wine "would be unable to operate anything more than a deck-chair" (Body and Mind, March 21). Obviously the reason I have experienced so many problems in erecting these confounded contraptions over the past 40 years is that I have always been sober at the time.

Yours etc,  
A. P. WALTER,  
62 Rib Vale, Bengoe, Hertford,  
March 21.

Sports letters, page 45

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Business letters, page 29







## OBITUARIES

## TERENCE SKEMP

Terence Skemp, CB, QC, Second Parliamentary Counsel, 1973-80, and Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85, died on March 15 aged 81. He was born on February 14, 1915.

DURING his 34 years as a parliamentary draftsman, Terence Skemp developed a notable capacity for seeing how projects put to him in a very crude form, as legislative projects often are, could be made to work. It was a capacity which he employed to good purpose in the Race Relations Act 1968 (the first attempt to tackle that difficult topic in Britain on a fairly wide front) and in the monster Local Government Act 1972. The latter would have taken far longer to prepare, and would have far exceeded its 448 pages, had it not included in a form acceptable to Parliament an unprecedentedly wide and comprehensive power. This enabled consequential repeals and amendments in the large body of public and local Acts dealing with local government matters to be made by subordinate legislation.

Terence Rowland Frazer Skemp was born in the Punjab, where his father was a judge. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he obtained an exhibition in law. At 21 he applied to join the Indian Civil Service, but was rejected as too young. He did not try again but instead read for the Bar, to which he was called by Gray's Inn early in 1938. He was a pupil of the renowned Sir John Fostler, in whose chambers he stayed on after his pupillage, joining the Army in September 1939. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps throughout the war, was commissioned in January 1940, awarded the Croix de Guerre, and medically discharged in 1945 after suffering a severe and partially disabling leg wound.

This was about the time when Herbert Morrison, as Leader of the House of Commons, agreed to an enlargement of the establishment of the Parliamentary Counsel Office in order to enable the Labour Government's exceptionally heavy postwar legislative programme to be successfully carried through. In April 1946 Skemp was recruited by the then First Parliamentary Counsel, the redoubtable Sir Granville Rann (known affectionately in the office as "the maestro") on the recommendation of Hubert Parker (the future Lord Chief Justice), at that time junior counsel to the Treasury.

After a slightly shaky first three years (hardly surprising after so long away from the law), Skemp pulled himself up by his bootstraps and settled down to the long apprenticeship in the difficult art of legislative drafting which is necessary before one becomes fit to be let loose on Bills of one's own. In 1950 he spent six months in New Zealand and Australia studying their legislative processes. He was promoted to Deputy Parlia-



mentary Counsel in 1963, and to full Counsel in 1964, having from then on full responsibility for all the Bills allotted to him, among the first of which was that for the Firearms Act 1968. He received a letter of thanks from Barbara Castle, then Minister of Transport, for his work on the Docks and Harbours Act 1966 and a similar token of appreciation from the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, on the passing of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

After completing work on the Race Relations Act 1968 he spent a period with the Law Commission, producing several draft Bills which were published in reports issued by the Com-

mission with a view to improving the law. Having earlier gained valuable experience in the local government field from working as a "devil" on the London Government Act 1963, Skemp was allotted the Bill for the Local Government Act 1972, which completely reorganised local government (except in Greater London) throughout England and Wales.

This broke the record for size, being at that time the longest Bill ever presented to Parliament. In the following year he was appointed CB, and became Second Parliamentary Counsel jointly with the late Henry Rowe, it being then undecided which of the two would eventually succeed Sir Anthony Stinton as head of the office.

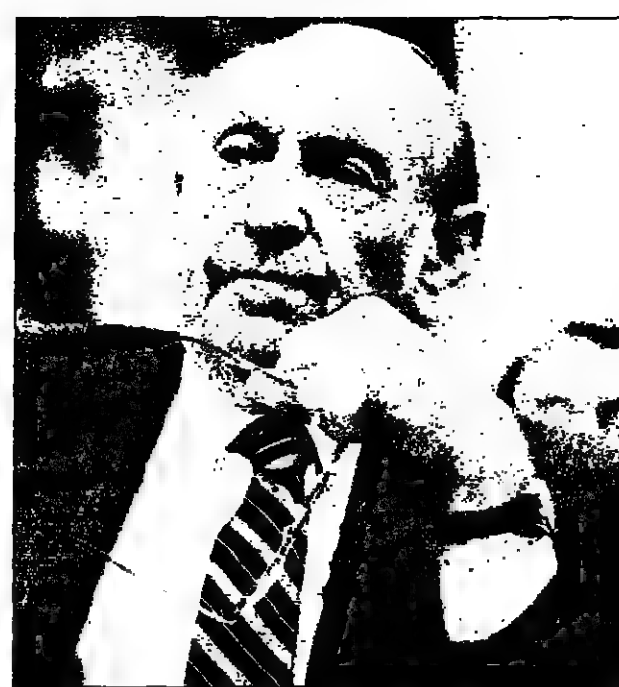
In the event, the succession went to Rowe, partly because in 1975 Skemp developed a heart condition. This did not prevent him from drafting the difficult Patents Act 1977, which entirely rewrote the law on that subject, and the Companies Act 1980, a major amending measure. He was also the draftsman of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, which famously began: "(1) The Industrial Relations Act 1971 is hereby repealed. (2) Nevertheless..." and went on to re-enact many of the politically unexceptionable provisions of the repealed Act.

On his retirement from the Parliamentary Counsel Office in 1980, aged 65, Skemp served for five years as Counsel to the Speaker, in which capacity his main duty was to examine statutory instruments as they appeared, and to bring any defects to the attention of the Joint Committee appointed to report on them. He came to this important task at a time when the number of statutory instruments was increasing and brought to it a fresh, active and eminently sensible approach. He took silk in 1984.

Outside his work, Terence Skemp was a quiet and very modest man, with a fund of anecdotes with which he liked to amuse his friends. He was a gifted amateur pianist, and enjoyed travel and gardening. He married his wife Norma in 1939 but they eventually separated; and he spent the last twenty years of his life with his partner Sandra who survives him, together with his widow, and one son and two daughters of his marriage.

## DAVID PACKARD

David Packard, businessman and former United States Deputy Secretary of Defence in the Nixon Administration, died on March 26 aged 83. He was born on September 7, 1912.



IN THE cut-throat environment of modern American industry, with its massive worker lay-offs and remote senior executives, David Packard was a remarkable example of a very different management philosophy. By keeping in constant touch with his employees and giving full rein to their creativity, sharing profits and providing security, he built the Hewlett-Packard Company into one of the largest and most innovative electronics companies in the world.

Together with his partner, William Hewlett, Packard founded the concern in 1938 with a capital of \$538 and a workshop housed in his garage. Today it has 100,000 employees, and annual revenues of \$31 billion, with factories across the world.

Packard and Hewlett had been friends as electrical engineering students at Stanford University, where the oft-cited Packard had also been an outstanding athlete and football player.

Both enjoyed tinkering with electronics, and in short order they had invented a weight-reducing machine, an electronic harmonica tuner, and a four-line indicator for bowling alleys. Their first commercial sale, however, was to Walt Disney, who ordered eight audio-oscillators for use on the sound-track of *Fantasia* at \$71.50 each. The Hewlett-Packard partnership turned a profit of \$1,653 in its first year, reinvested it in the business, and never looked back. The garage, recognised as the birthplace of Silicon Valley, is now a California state landmark.

As the corporation grew, Packard strove to maintain its small company atmosphere by creating numerous divisions and giving each a high

degree of autonomy which extended to the shop floor. Managers were encouraged to set objectives and to let the workers get on with the job. Combined with a technique known as "management by walking around," which had senior executives making themselves visible and accessible on the shop floor, it proved extremely effective. Packard himself, who had a horror of executive pomposity, insisted on being called "Dave" by his workers.

A lifelong liberal Republican, who had made substantial financial contributions to the party, Packard found himself the centre of controversy in 1969 when he was selected by President Nixon to become deputy to Melvin Laird as Secretary of Defence. The reason was a potential conflict of interest: Hewlett-Packard was a major defence contractor, selling an annual \$100 million worth of electronic instruments to the Pentagon, and Packard owned about 30 per cent of the stock, worth \$289 million.

He resolved the issue by leaving the company, exchanging his \$1 million in-

come for a government salary of \$30,000, and putting his shares into a charitable trust. Although some, including Senator Albert Gore, were unconvinced, calling the move a book-keeping exercise, Packard won Senate confirmation easily and served with considerable success for the next three years before returning to Hewlett-Packard as chairman.

Packard was later appointed by President Reagan as chairman of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defence Management, recommending changes in the system of weapons procurement, and served as a member of the Trilateral Commission from 1973 to 1981.

During the 1980s Packard went into semi-retirement, though maintaining his official position with Hewlett-Packard. But, when the company got into financial difficulties in 1991, he returned to full-time work, and inspired the reorganisation which restored its fortunes.

David Packard is survived by one son and three daughters. His wife Lucile died in 1987.

## PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER ARCHIBALD

Christopher Archibald, Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia, 1970-91, died on February 27 aged 69. He was born on December 30, 1926.

J. M. KEYNES on one occasion remarked that a mature economist should be able to "understand symbols and speak in words, contemplate the particular in terms of the general, and touch abstract and concrete in the same flight of thought". Chris Archibald possessed a philosopher's awareness of what can and cannot be said with words and symbols, a mathematician's precision and a scientist's inclination towards testable predictions and critical experiments. He also had a firm grasp of the historical stage on which economic drama is enacted. Although he had no single big idea such as leads to a Nobel Prize, among his generation he had few equals as an economist's economist.

George Christopher Archibald was the son of the deputy regional commissioner for the Midlands during the Second World War. His father was awarded an hereditary peerage as Baron Archibald of Woodside in the City of Glasgow by the Antie Government. This presented Archibald, as the only son,

with a problem. Although having no objection to the award of honours on merit, he failed to see the logic of hereditary titles and so disclaimed the peerage when his father died in 1975.

Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy in the United States, Archibald took a wartime history degree at Cambridge, served in the Royal Army Education Corps from 1945 to 1948, and completed his education at LSE, where he studied analytical and descriptive economics. After a spell lecturing at the University of Otago he joined the staff at LSE, where he became a leading member of a group of young Turks, dedicated to the rigorous testing of economic propositions.

In the 1950s the economics profession tended to be split between theorists who did not wander too far from their armchairs, and applied economists who did not venture too far from description. Archibald and other young colleagues at LSE, through the vehicle of their Methodology, Measurement and Testing (MMT) seminar series, declared a revolt. Economic propositions were to be isolated for rigorous analytical examination and exposed to empirical tests in order to separate the wheat from the chaff. An underlying influence came from colleagues in the



LSE philosophy department such as Karl Popper and Joseph Agassi. It was in this crucible that Archibald's distinctive approach to economic analysis was forged. The hallmark of analytical clarity can be seen in *Monetary and Value Theory* (1958) in which he and Dick Lipsey demonstrated

that a change in the value of real money balances could have only a transitory effect on consumption as economies moved from one equilibrium to another. The insistence that an informative theory must be able to produce refutable predictions is well exemplified in *Chamberlin versus Chicago* (1961). The careful derivation

and testing of refutable implications is evident in his empirical work on inflation and unemployment.

The MMT project in retrospect might seem to have been heroic but naive in its confidence in the ability of empirical tests to arbitrate between rival economic theories. Addressing this problem in *Refutation or Comparison?* (1966), Archibald displayed a sophisticated awareness that testing more often allowed the empirical content of rival theories to be compared rather than refuted outright.

Archibald's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious. The world is full of students who found him the most stimulating teacher encountered in their whole course of studies. If students displayed a serious interest in the subject he was always available to deal with their intellectual and personal problems.

From LSE he joined the University of Essex in 1964, first as Reader, three years later becoming a Professor. In 1970 he moved to British Columbia — not least because of the excellent salmon rivers there. He was a highly productive Professor of Economics at the University of British Columbia from 1970 to 1991. On retirement he returned to Britain, initially to his native Scotland before settling in Appleby-in-Westmorland.

Besides his interest in economics, Archibald carried with him the integrity and sense of perspective that characterised a civilised human being. In his company, discussion of economic matters was always part of a wider canvas of human experience that included wars, disasters, mountains, rugby, bears and fish that got away.

His painful final illness was borne with good humour. His first marriage ended in divorce, and he is survived by his second wife, Daphne. There were no children.

## ALAN RIDOUT

Alan Ridout, composer, died from a heart attack in Caxton, France, on March 19 aged 61. He was born in West Wickham, Kent, on December 9, 1934.

FROM his earliest childhood, Alan Ridout knew that he would devote his life to music. He heard music in his head, and by the age of 12 he had written down, almost as if by dictation, more than a hundred works. Throughout his life he remained a fluent and prolific composer. He wrote some 15 operas, six ballets, eight symphonies, 25 concertante works, chamber music (including eight string quartets), instrumental music and a great deal of church music. He was also an early experimenter with electronic techniques, his 1959 *Psalm for Sine Wave Generators* being one of the first pieces of purely electronic music by an English composer.

Alan Ridout began formal musical instruction at the age of nine when, despite vociferous protest from his father, his mother arranged for him to take piano lessons. Three years later he had passed the final grade of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination with distinction and had already completed more than a hundred works including a symphony, numerous concertante pieces, chamber music and choral settings — all modelled on classical principles.

At the age of 15, Ridout left Haberdashers' Aske's school, then in Hampstead, and began studying music professionally. He spent two years at the Guildhall School of Music

where, apart from working at composition and conducting, he continued his piano studies, giving his first public recital at the age of 16.

His primary interest in composition, however, took him to the Royal College of Music where he worked for two years with Gordon Jacob and for a further two years with Herbert Howells. By the time he left in 1954 several of his works had been performed, mainly at concerts of the Society for the Promotion of New Music.

By 1964 he was teaching at both Cambridge and London universities, while being Professor of Theory and Composition at the Royal College of Music. Moving to Canterbury in 1968, he was also composer in residence to the cathedral and the choir school and wrote operas for the boys, including a poignant version of Bertolt Brecht's story of children drifting through the nightmarish, broken world of postwar Germany.

After the closure of the choir school, Ridout joined the music staff at King's College, Canterbury. Here he taught for many years. His mischievous delight in practical jokes was particularly appreciated by his pupils. But in 1990 he suffered a severe heart attack and, three years later, he decided to move to France, something he had always dreamt of doing. He was also received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1994, being made an oblate of the order of St Benedict soon afterwards.

His last major work *Canicle of Joy* was premiered at the Three Choirs Festival last year. Alan Ridout never married.

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## THE CIVIL WAR IN PARIS

(From our Special Correspondent)

Paris, March 26, evening... I confess that I am amazed at the moderation of the rebels. I think that they have borne their honours meekly. They saw that no effort was made by our lawful protectors to avenge the massacre in the Rue de la Paix on Wednesday, and yet they have refrained from slaughtering any more of us. I live in a street close to the Committee's military Headquarters. It is guarded at either end by double posts of Montmartre and Belleville nationals. The gate of my hotel is kept locked, and the windows of the lower storeys are blinded with iron shutters. Well, all of us in this street are allowed to go in and out of our domiciles, and there has been no attempt on our lives and properties. Even at the risk of being dealt with as traitors by the Government at Versailles, we are all very respectful to the armed representatives of the Central Committee. Our very existence is in the hands of these men. The Nationals of Order have completely deserted us, and as for our legitimate rulers, they don't give us the protection of even a policeman. It is any wonder, then, that a lead was taken off the hearts of the citizens last evening when they

## ON THIS DAY

March 28, 1871

A commune elected by Parisians to rule the city after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War was crushed by Government troops in May and 25,000 insurgents killed.

found that, as there seemed to be no chance of assistance from Versailles, an accommodation had been arrived at between the legal Mayors and the illegal Committee, and that for a day or two, at all events, they might re-open their houses and resume their ordinary vocations? I never witnessed anything like the change that came over Paris when the second editions of the evening papers and numerous *offices* made known to the citizens that the Mayors and Committee had agreed to a truce. Shutters were taken down with magical rapidity, shops were lit up with gas, and articles for sale exposed in the windows; men, women and children flocked out to promenade on the

Boulevards, and if a Prussian Etappen Commander had requisitioned all the jobmasters of Paris, carriages could not have appeared on the scene with more instantaneous rapidity. The lines of brilliant bayonets disappeared from the corners of the Rue Drouot and the Rue Vivienne; Nationals of Order and Nationals of "Disorder" — (I suppose I must use the term by way of distinction, though it does sound rather disrespectful to the party in power) — embraced and kissed; and I found myself carried away in a crowd who were shouting "Vive la République" and waving their hats as a battalion of the Montmartre troops marched proudly along the Boulevard des Italiens. Today the elections have been going on peacefully, and all Paris is out promenading. Everyone is turning down from the Place Vendôme, which they — the public — are allowed to view across the paving stone obstruction if they obey the order "Circuler" by not standing too long in one spot. In compliance to my nationality I was permitted to enter the Place itself and inspect all the defences. I believe that a foreigner of any nationality, even Prussia, does not stand a worse chance in Paris now than he did before the Civil War commenced...



## NEWS

## Blair to ballot party on manifesto

■ Tony Blair is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

■ All 365,000 members will be consulted next autumn about a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government and the document will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election. Pages 1, 2, 20

## Revolution in the sixth form

■ Gillian Shephard signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered tighter A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses. She accepted a raft of recommendations from Sir Ron Dearing. Page 1, 10, 11, 21

## French victim

A French victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease. Pages 1, 9, 20, 21

## Tories hold up

Support for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July. Page 1

## School power

Wide-ranging proposals to give all schools more power, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary. Page 2

## MP banned

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, was fined £450 and banned from driving after he left an accident where a toddler's pushchair was trapped between cars. Page 3

## Charge dropped

Rachel Heath, a home help accused of attempting to murder a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer, had her case dismissed. Page 5

## Patient killed father

A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners. Page 6

## Navy women wear the trousers

■ The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprieved after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work. The flares had been thought dated but sailors who tested straight-leg trousers said they looked too ordinary. Page 1

## Clarke stands firm

Kenneth Clarke has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the question of a referendum on a single currency by saying Malcolm Rifkind must be present. Page 8

## Tough S levels

High-flying students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch the most able sixth-formers. Page 10

## ... easy GCSEs

Students criticised GCSEs as "too easy" in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing. They also doubted the relevance of A levels for later life. Page 11

## Briton ran for his life

A Briton told the "backpacker trial" how he ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire on him. Page 14

## Turin trauma

The BSE crisis has cast a harsh new light on the EU summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference. Page 15

## Patten refusal

Chris Patten, the Governor, rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature in Hong Kong before the colony's handover in 1997. Page 16



Thousands of people watched *The Matthew*, a replica of John Cabot's flagship, as she left Bristol to start sea trials yesterday

## BUSINESS

**Jaguar:** The company won £80 million of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs. Page 23

**Motorway:** BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. Page 23

**Competition:** Plans for a law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government. Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 11.5 points to close at 3672.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.4 after a fall from \$1.522 to \$1.5185 but a rise from DM2.465 to DM2.583. Page 26

## SPORT

**Racing:** Cigar, the 1995 North American horse of the year, won the \$4 million Dubai World Cup from two other American horses, Soul Of The Matter and L'Carriere. Page 43

**Motor racing:** Viviane Senna, sister of the late world champion driver, has raised \$2 million this year towards helping Brazilian children to escape poverty. Page 46

**Rugby league:** After nine months of rehabilitation and pain, Franco Botica is ready to resume the most prodigious points-scoring career in the modern game. Page 42

**Bowls:** Tony Alcock, the defending champion, recovered from 24-15 down to defeat Noel Kennedy in the world outdoor singles championship in Adelaide. Page 42

## ARTS

**Cinema competition:** Have you ever wanted to write a screenplay? The Times Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break. Page 34

**New films:** Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*, while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*. Page 35

**Robbins speaks:** Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row in his new film *Dead Man Walking*. Page 35

**Not convincing:** Stephen Sondheim's *Pastor*, newly arrived in the West End, is a sentimental and silly musical, says Benedict Nightingale. Page 36

## FEATURES

**Rhythm and blues:** Jools Holland, jazz pianist and TV personality, used to find talking about his private life excruciating. Page 19

**Sexism and sickness:** Psychologists have found a syndrome affecting ambitious women. Page 19

**Whitewash:** Why the Duchess of York felt the need to flaunt her new blanching looks. Page 18

**Maths:** Day Four of the national curriculum guide. Page 17

**Cross country:** Tour operators are promoting Australia's open roads for fly-drive holidays. Page 40

**Books:** Uses and abuses: Cultural chameleon Melvyn Bragg's new novel links between primate grooming and conversation; shared German guilt on Jews. Pages 38, 39

**The papers:** The US Treasury has introduced a new \$100 bill without withdrawing the old in order to stamp out counterfeiters without upsetting the millions of foreigners who feel safer with dollars than with their own money. No other currency is trusted as widely as the American dollar. — *The New York Times*

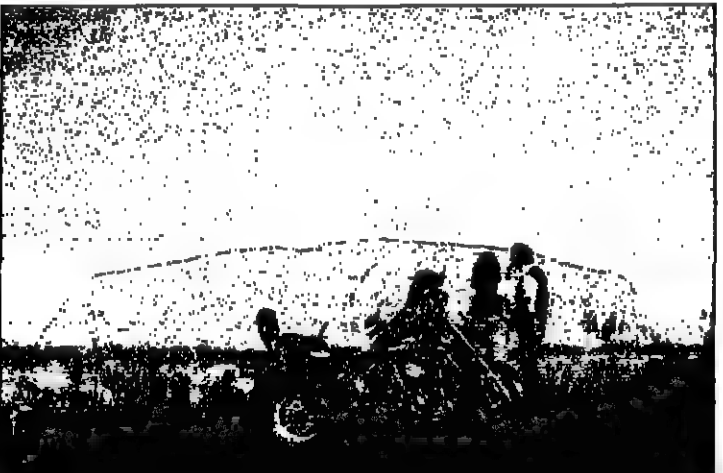
**Obituaries:** Terence Skemp, Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85; David Packard, US Deputy Secretary of Defense; Professor Christopher Archibald, economist. Page 23

**BSE:** Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate. Page 21

## TOMORROW

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

## Acquisitive Lloyds TSB courts New Zealand bank

By Rachel Bridge and Patricia Tehan

LLOYDS TSB is believed to be planning its third massive acquisition in less than a year with the takeover of Trust Bank New Zealand, which has a market valuation of £600 million.

The deal follows its £1.8 billion acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester last August and the £15 billion merger with TSB in December.

Lloyds has been a big player in New Zealand since the mid-1960s when it bought the National Bank of

New Zealand. Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds TSB chief executive, has made no secret of his admiration for the New Zealand banking and financial system and the economy's low level of inflation.

An announcement is expected from Lloyds TSB through the National Bank of New Zealand within days. A spokeswoman last night said: "Lloyds TSB does not comment on market rumour."

The bank did, however, yesterday move to deny a market rumour in Australia that it was to buy the 50 per cent stake in the Common-

wealth Bank, which is up for sale for an estimated A\$500 million.

Lloyds TSB does not currently have a significant presence in Australia, where four banks are thought to be inviting bids, although National Bank of New Zealand does have a wholesale banking business in Australia.

HSBC, Midland Bank's parent, yesterday denied rumours that it was seeking a tie-up with Trust Bank. Its HongkongBank unit had been seen as a possible suitor for the New Zealand bank. Commonwealth Bank of Australia's ASB

Bank has been seen as the other potential partner for Trust Bank.

Trust Bank, which is mostly involved in mortgage lending, is 78 per cent owned by community trusts. A 22 per cent stake in Trust Bank was floated on the New Zealand stock market two years ago. The bank recently confirmed that it was in negotiations with an unnamed party over "a possible interest in amalgamation". Its market value has been estimated at about NZ\$1.32 billion, or £600 million.

It is not clear whether Lloyds TSB will acquire the whole of Trust Bank

or a stake of about 50 per cent. Some community trust shareholders have said they are not willing to sell.

The bank would be a good fit with National Bank of New Zealand and with Lloyds TSB's mortgage expertise in the UK. The interest in Trust Bank is seen by some as a change of heart. Lloyds TSB had been rumoured as a seller of National Bank of New Zealand, but was said to be seeking "too high a price", according to an analyst.

However, analysts have expressed some doubt about how Lloyds TSB will fund such a deal. Its

tier 1 capital ratio fell to below 6 per cent after its reverse takeover of TSB. One analyst said yesterday: "It is not in any position to spend."

Lloyds TSB could raise funds through the issue of tier 1 preference shares. In the past, it has shown itself to be against raising capital for acquisitions, preferring to finance them from its own resources.

In the year to March 31, 1995, Trust Bank reported a 27 per cent rise in after-tax profits to NZ\$92.4 million, assisted by higher revenues and cost reductions, exceeding prospectus forecasts.

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3672.4	(+11.8)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE All share	1031.51	(+5.34)
Nikkei	21325.98	(+315.21)
New York		
Dow Jones	5558.57	(+11.92)
S&P Composite	552.86	(+0.11)

#### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	7.92%	(8 1/4%)
Yield	6.81%	(6.58%)

#### LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Libor long bill	104 1/2	(104 1/2)

#### STERLING

New York	1.9185	(1.9224)
London	1.9185	(1.9248)
DM	2.2576	(2.2510)
FF	7.5900	(7.7020)
SFR	1.8208	(1.8187)
Yen	161.84	(162.21)
S index	93.4	(93.2)

#### US DOLLAR

London	1.6888	(1.6782)
FF	1.1998	(1.1928)
SFR	1.0631	(1.0645)
Yen	96.1	(96.7)

#### TOKYO CLOSING

Yen 100	106.81	
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#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.65	(\$18.55)
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#### GOLD

London close	\$400.25	(\$400.00)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Jobs bonanza as Jaguar wins £80m aid

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

JAGUAR yesterday won its fight for £80 million worth of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

There will be 1,300 new jobs at Jaguar with up to 5,000 created in component suppliers, while another 3,000 in Jaguar and at Ford plants will be safeguarded.

The European Commission dropped objections to British government plans for grants towards the £400 million cost of developing the mid-range car in this country after the personal intervention of Ian Lang, President of the Board

of Trade. He told European Commissioners that the investment was one of the most important in the European motor industry but would be lost to the United States unless the aid was available to Ford, Jaguar's parent company.

Ford could have built the new, small Jaguar at an existing plant at Wixom, near Detroit, one of many areas of the USA desperately bidding for new investment by motor manufacturers.

Mr Lang said yesterday: "We faced very tough competition from an alternative site in the US and I have been personally in touch with Com-

missioner van Miert in Brussels about the strategic importance of this project for the British car industry and for the West Midlands."

Even though there was an emotional attachment to Britain, Alex Trotman, Ford's British-born chairman, was prepared to ditch plans for a site here for the sake of producing the car at lower cost in a modern American plant. Now Britain will build the car that enthusiasts have dreamt about for more than 25 years.

Jaguar is planning a small saloon, codenamed X200, that will challenge the C- and E-class models from Mercedes and BMW's 5-series from 1998. The car will be the spiritual descendant of the famous Mark II series of cars which helped to establish Jaguar around the world in the 1960s. It will also be the first time Jaguar has had a three-model range — comprising the X200, XJ6 saloons, and the new XK8 sports car which is launched later this year — since 1970, when the business was owned by British Leyland.

Jaguar is developing an integrated factory next to its paint plant at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham for the X200. In addition to 1,300 new jobs at Castle Bromwich, the investment will secure around 3,000 jobs at Ford plants at Bridgend in Wales and Halewood on Merseyside which will be key suppliers.

The European Commission had objected to £40 million of the grant which was to come from the Government's regional selective assistance budget, ruling that the aid would have to be substantially cut. The balance of grants package comes in the form of site and land reclamation by English Partnerships, environmental work and training provided by local agencies.

Mr Lang insisted that the cash would establish Jaguar as a major volume producer, raising output from between 35,000 to 40,000 cars a year to 80,000 in 1998 and nearer 100,000 by the end of the century.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman and chief executive, said: "This is excellent news for Jaguar's employees, customers, dealers, suppliers and the West Midlands economy."

Pennington, page 27

## Pilkington cuts 1,900 workers

By Alasdair Murray

PILKINGTON, the glass-maker, yesterday revealed it was cutting 1,900 jobs worldwide and would take a £155 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts for restructuring.

The company also upset the City by giving warning that full-year profits, excluding exceptional charges, would be "marginally" below expectations for the year to March 31. The shares fell 8.5p to close at 98p as the City reacted badly to the news, which closely follows a £300 million rights issue in November, to cover acquisitions. But the company promised a rapid pay-back from its cost-cutting measures, which will take place over the next three years, and said full benefits would appear from 1998. Roger Leverton, chief executive, said: "The work we have done to date on benchmarking and cost cutting has demonstrated the continuing potential within the group to improve efficiencies and yields in all our activities."

The £155 million charge includes an asset write-down of £85 million and £70 million in costs from the restructuring of operations in Europe and the US. In Europe the company will consolidate operations after

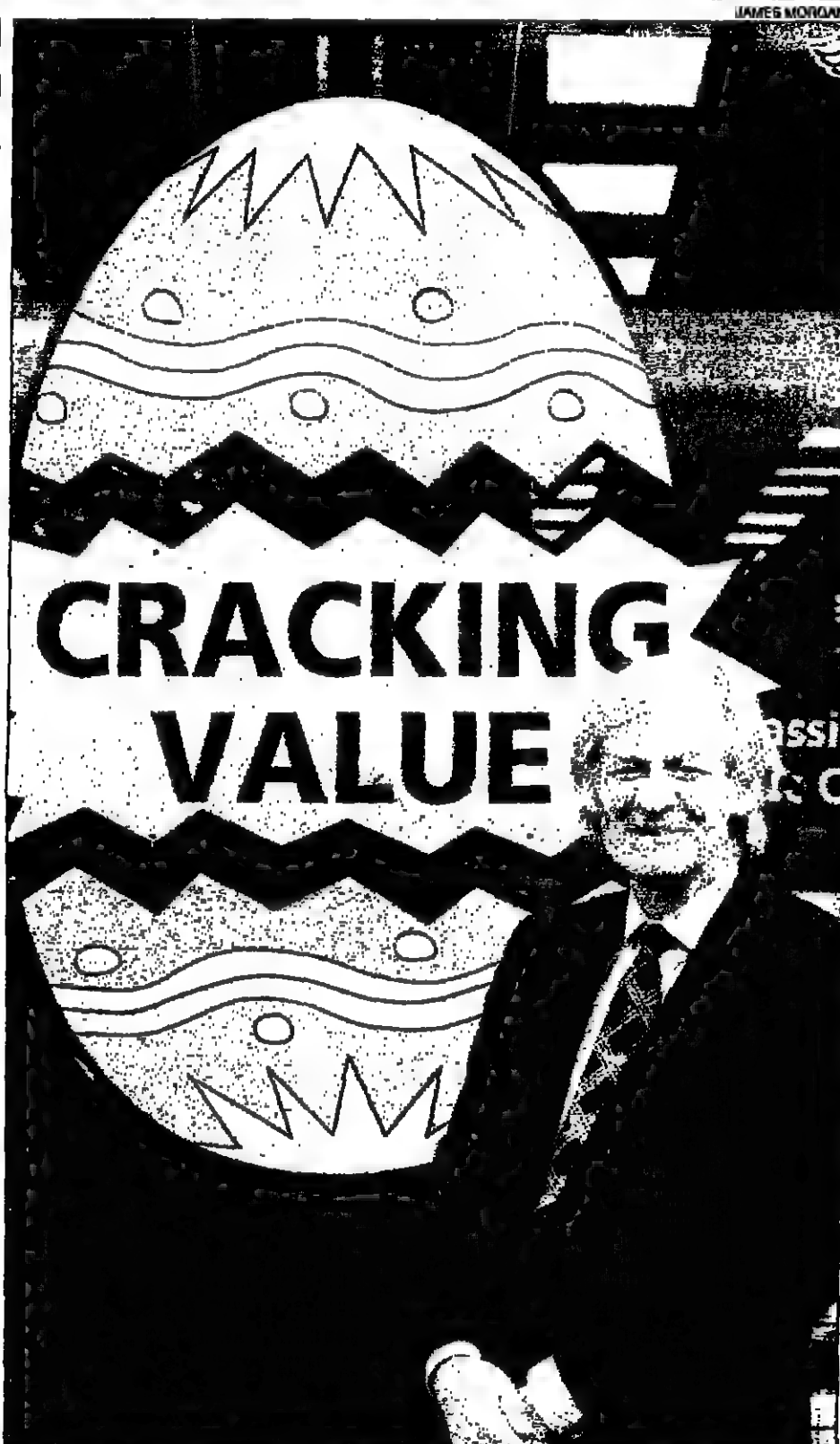
the £120 million purchase of the Italian SIV last November. In the US Pilkington said it would rationalise its glass plants focusing on the production of laminated, tempered and encapsulated glass. The company will also cut costs at its German building products arm after a difficult trading year. Pilkington said the plan is to be self-financing in cash terms.

Job cuts are expected to take place across the businesses but Pilkington would not specify further because it is still involved in talks with unions. Mr Leverton said cuts among the 3,500 British staff would be limited and achieved by natural wastage over three years.

Pennington, page 27



Leverton: "potential"



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher, the Woolworths group, lift profits to £287 million

## Kingfisher's B&Q dives

By Sarah Bagnall

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths to Comet retail group, yesterday reported a sharp fall in profits from its B&Q subsidiary, but denied that the chain's chief executive had come close to leaving because of a clash of views over the way forward for the do-it-yourself business.

B&Q, the market leader, saw profits drop by a third, to £55.4 million, in the 53 weeks to February 3. However, the decline was more than offset by improved profits from all the group's other operations.

Overall, Kingfisher lifted underlying pre-tax profits 2 per cent, to £287.2 million, on

sales up 8 per cent, to £5.3 billion. The results beat market forecasts, which ranged from £244 million to £282 million, helping to lift the shares 21p, to 554p.

Including one-off costs, pre-tax profits rose 27.6 per cent, to £311.7 million.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said: "The result at B&Q was disappointing partly because the DIY market is at its worst for five years." To try to improve the 279-strong chain's fortunes, Kingfisher has cut its store opening programme for the warehouse format from nine to four in the current year. It has also found

scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q.

Referring to speculation that Jim Hodgkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said "it was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodgkinson.

The group's first-half underlying pre-tax profits fell by 12.8 per cent, but second-half profits rose by 8.7 per cent. An 11.7p final dividend, due on July 2, makes 16.2p, up from 15.2p. Earnings per share rose by 32.8 per cent, to 34.4p.

Tempus, page 28

## BICC and Trafalgar to operate motorway

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. BICC, which did not pre-qualify, replaced Wimpey as Trafalgar's partner after Wimpey was acquired by Tarmac in an asset swap. The substitution was approved by the Government on the advice of Price Waterhouse, its consultant on the Private Finance Initiative.

The consortium will design, build, finance and operate the link, the second major road scheme agreed under the PFI. The project involves widening the M62 to four lanes, building a motorway with three lanes in either direction between the M1 at Belle Isle and the A1 at Hook Moor, and widening part of the M1 to five lanes.

To fund construction and operation, the contractors have arranged up to £300 million of finance. Some £15 million will be provided by the two partners as equity. A further £175 million of senior debt will be provided by a panel of six banks, and the European Investment Bank will lend £90 million.

The Highways Agency declined to comment on the outcome of the competition, but an announcement is imminent. Construction work will be undertaken by Balfour Beatty, a BICC subsidiary, and Trafalgar.

The deal opens a new alliance between the two groups. BICC is in a consortium called Connect with Philip Holzman, the German contractor, Bank of America and WS Atkins, the consultant, to bid for two projects in the second round of Highways Agency road tenders.

## Labour wants annual reports on training

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITISH companies will have to include details of their training performance in their annual reports if Labour comes to power, according to new proposals to be announced today. Labour believes that the move, part of its plans for training set out in the document, *The Skills Revolution — Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, will increase the provision of training by placing companies under public scrutiny.

The move borrows a technique proposed for board-

## Arjo chief executive bows out

ALAIN SOULAS, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is to leave by mutual consent with a total compensation package expected to top £1 million (George Slivell writes).

Compensation negotiations by M Soulas will centre on a two-year contract, an annual salary in the last published annual report of £370,000 and options worth about £400,000 if exercised at yesterday's share price of 204p, up 10p.

M Soulas seems to have fallen victim to a strategic review of the group's problems, announced along with depressing results for 1995 three weeks ago. Pre-tax profits dived from £217 million to £72 million.

Arjo has appointed Philippe Beylier as group managing director. He is currently responsible for the company's merchandising division and takes up his new responsibility with immediate effect.

Skills agenda, page 29



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## Dual stock auctions to help sell £32bn gilts

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced yesterday that it estimates it will need to sell £32.6 billion of gilts during the coming financial year and unveiled plans for three new dual stock auctions.

The figure for estimated gilt sales is so high because of a large number of gilt redemptions that have to be refinanced. These are expected to total £11.5 billion, compared with £4.1 billion.

The new dual stock auctions will, for example, mean that the Bank of England could auction one stock on a Tuesday and another one on Thursday. The aim is to reduce the size of individual auctions and enable the authorities to fund more evenly across maturity bands. In the next financial year, there will be three dual auctions and eight traditional single stock auctions.

The Government also confirmed yesterday that it will not hold auctions for index-linked gilts which will continue to be sold through taps.

The gilt market finished a touch lower yesterday, partly because the Government's *Debt Management Report* focused attention on the large amount of stock that has to be absorbed next year. Earlier, however, a £3 billion auction of five-year gilts was more than two-and-a-half times subscribed. This far better than the market had expected.



Graham Howe, left, finance director, and Hans Snook were delighted to talk about the success of Orange's flotation yesterday

## Lang outlines updated law to tackle cartels

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

The Office of Fair Trading will be given new powers to enter premises and seize or copy documents when searching for evidence of market-rigging, if a Green Paper unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is implemented. The OFT would also be empowered to make prohibition orders, banning apparently anti-competitive practices until an investigation into them was completed.

The proposals, awaited since

reforms were promised in 1989, mark a fundamental shift to bring UK competition law closer into line with practice in continental Europe.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, welcomed the proposals enthusiastically and called for them to be implemented "as soon as possible". He said: "Strengthening the investigatory powers of the Director-General of Fair Trading to uncover cartels and deal with abuse of market power is to be welcomed. It is overdue."

The announcement was also welcomed by British Telecom. The company said the thrust of the Green Paper supported

its position in discussions with Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, over Ofcom proposals for a general prohibition of anti-competitive behaviour in the telecommunications industry.

"We note that it expressly envisages a right to have a decision of the OFT reviewed by an independent tribunal and for points of law to be referred to the High Court on appeal," the company said. Thus far, Ofcom has rejected BT's pleas for such an appeal mechanism.

Mr Lang said he wanted to consult widely to achieve "a system that will bring benefits to business and consumers while at the same time not

imposing any unnecessary regulatory burdens".

The new law is expected to strengthen British competition law and bring it into line with Article 85 of the European Community treaty. Under the proposals, companies that are party to illegal agreements will be liable to fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover. Directors who negotiate or operate prohibited agreements could face fines of up to £150,000 in the High Court.

The OFT, which has 420 staff and an annual budget of £19.4 million, expects to reinforce its 60-strong investigations department if the proposals become law.

## Investors get the taste for Orange

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES in Orange, the third-largest mobile phone company, opened for trading yesterday at 245p, well above their issue price of 205p, and closed at 237p, with 69 million shares changing hands.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, said in hindsight the company could have priced the shares higher, but was happy with the price level chosen. The indicated price range was 175p to 205p and strong demand (the issue was ten times oversubscribed) ensured that few investor applications came in below 205p.

He said: "The important thing for us was not ultimately to squeeze every tiny bit that we could out of this thing. We are after all, a company that is not making money."

Orange has about 480,000 customers, against 379,000 at the end of December. It is not expected to post operating profits before 1997. Its pre-tax loss in 1995 was £140.5 million.

The offer price valued Orange at £2.45 billion and raised £624 million before the over-allotment of 32.5 million shares, or 10 per cent of the total offering of 325 million shares. Of the total, some 26 million shares went to 33,000 individual investors in Britain.

Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong group that launched Orange in 1994, now has a stake of almost 50 per cent, down from 68 per cent, while British Aerospace's stake fell from 32 per cent to about 22 per cent. The success of the flotation helped to boost BAE shares by 13p to 865p.

Orange plans to use the funds raised to pay off shareholder debt and expand its network. It is aiming for 95 per cent coverage by the end of next year, up from 85 per cent at the end of 1995.

## BT launches cable trial for video on demand

By OUR CITY STAFF

BT yesterday formally unveiled its first video on demand trial for cable customers, whose digital format, if successful, might create the benchmark for the fledgling industry. BT said it might offer the technology to rival cable companies.

The trial is under way in BT's relatively small Westminster cable franchise in London, the only cable business it owns and operates. The £3 million experiment is to expand from 100 customers to 1,000 by the summer, making it one of the largest of its kind in the world.

The Westminster trial is unlike BT's video on demand experiments in Ipswich and Colchester, which began last year and cover some 5,000 homes. The latter use standard BT phone lines and customers cannot receive live programming because of regulations that prevent BT from using its phone network for broadcasting.

Since Westminster is a cable franchise, BT is free to offer both phone and live video services. In addition, cables have a much higher capacity than phone lines, speeding up the interaction time between BT's computers and the viewers.

Trial customers in Westminster can call up movies, BBC services and a range of TV shows, including *Blackadder* and *Fawlty Towers*, whenever they want. They need a special remote control, but no set-top box. The expanded trial will focus on usage patterns and, more importantly, pricing. The service is currently free.

Rupert Gavin, BT's multi-media director, said reports that the company's various video on demand trials would lead to £500 million investment were "pure conjecture".

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	15.86	15.38
Belgium Fr	63.23	45.08
Canada \$	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	8.46	8.52
Finland Mk	7.20	6.95
France Fr	6.18	7.47
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	368.00	330.00
Hong Kong \$	12.41	11.41
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.180	4.590
Italy Lira	2500.00	2345.00
Japan Yen	176.30	160.30
Malta	0.528	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.876	2.448
New Zealand \$	2.27	2.15
Norway Kr	10.38	9.59
Portugal Esc	204.10	225.50
S Africa Rd	6.54	5.74
Spain Ptas	166.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.73	9.20
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	112070	104070
USA \$	1.619	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Barclays cuts sum for pension fund

BARCLAYS BANK is to cut its contribution to its main UK pension fund, the Barclays 1964 Fund, by two thirds, or £50 million, for the next three years after an actuarial valuation showed it in surplus. Bfu, the banking union, condemned the move as "immoral". Rob MacGregor, of Bfu, said: "We want that money spent on the lowest income pensioners."

The bank is cutting contributions from £75 million to £25 million, or from the equivalent of 7.5 per cent of salary to 2.5 per cent. A three-yearly valuation last year put the fund value at sufficient to cover 125 per cent of accrued benefits. Barclays said: "This does not affect the staff, but will cost the group less."

## Mid Kent ready to fight

MID KENT, the water company, may make a legal challenge to a possible bid by two French companies. Mid Kent says that the bid, which needs Monopolies and Mergers Commission approval to proceed, flies in the face of a 1991 MMC ruling that General Utilities must limit its Mid Kent stake to 19.5 per cent. General Utilities, UK arm of Générale des Eaux, the French utilities giant, has proposed a bid for Mid Kent with Saur, another French company. Both own part or all of two of Mid Kent's water company neighbours. Pennington, page 27

## Aegis stake for sale

OMNICON, the US advertising group, proposes to sell its 9.1 per cent interest in Aegis Group, the British advertising and media planning company. Omnicon will also dispose of its 50 million Aegis warrants, for which Aegis is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Omnicon acquired the shares and warrants when Aegis refinanced in 1993. Yesterday Aegis reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £33.6 million from £20.1 million in 1994. Earnings were 2.6p a share (1.4p). Dividend payments will resume this year. Pennington, page 27

## Churchill buys Pet Plan

CHURCHILL is to announce its acquisition of Pet Plan, the animal insurance company, within weeks. John O'Roarke, its deputy managing director, said yesterday. The high street insurer, part of Winterthur, the Swiss insurer, said there was a lot of scope to develop Pet Plan because a large proportion of the pet-owning public had never bought cover for their animals. Mr O'Roarke said: "There is an opportunity to broaden the customer base in a market which is currently worth £100 million."

## Industry spending falls

CAPITAL spending by manufacturing industries in the fourth quarter was down 5 per cent on the previous quarter and was virtually the same as a year ago, according to revised figures from the Central Statistical Office. For the year as a whole, capital spending increased 8 per cent compared with the figure in 1994. Total capital spending by all industries was 1 per cent higher than in both the previous quarter and a year ago. Spending in 1995 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

## Independent record

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, the Irish media group, made record profits of Ir£50 million in 1995 (Ir£37.7 million). Operating profits increased to Ir£49 million (Ir£40.5 million). The rise was chiefly because of the inclusion of Independent Newspaper Holdings, the South African subsidiary, which recently reported a 41 per cent profit increase. The total dividend rises to Ir£10p (Ir£8.5p) with a final Ir6.5p. Earnings rose to Ir25.10p (Ir20p). IN has a 43.3 per cent interest in Newspaper Publishing, which publishes the UK title *The Independent*.

## Tibbett & Britten falls

PRE-TAX PROFITS of Tibbett & Britten, the logistics and supply chain management group, fell sharply to £12.1 million in 1995, from £26.9 million in 1994, in spite of a 41 per cent advance in turnover, to £652.9 million, from £464 million. The results were adversely affected by a downturn in Axial UK, the automotive logistics subsidiary. Earnings per share fell to 18.7p, from 42.8p. However, the total dividend is maintained at 16.2p, with an unchanged 11.2p final, which helped the shares to recover 82p to 505p yesterday.

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03 D Hill	09 HH Frentzen	15 P Dornaz	
GROUP B	GROUP D	GROUP F	GROUP H
04 G Berger	10 M Brundle	16 U Katajama	21 L Badoer
05 E Irvine	11 R Barrichello	17 J Verstappen	22 A Montanini
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## Counting the wildebeest

SLIP down the rabbit hole, trip through the looking glass, Pilkington's finest, of course, and welcome to the Alice-in-Wonderland world of modern company accounts. A newborn babe or a casual onlooker might assume that the numbers companies are required to report by law have some bearing on events in the real world. The City, of course, knows better.

Accounting standards, rather like that age-old struggle between builders of warships and those making the guns that sink them, are essentially a race between one gang that provides the armour by tightening up the rules and another looking to blow loopholes in them.

The latest round in that struggle is over one-off provisions against profits. These are designed to cope with those little accidents — factories razed to the ground by fire, earthquake or rabid wildebeest, say — that are unpredictable and should therefore be separated from "proper" profits. We made this much, but except for those wildebeest, we would have made this much, so please, if you would, focus on the second figure.

How nice to be able to remove £X million from this year's profits, blaming those wildebeest rather than the management, and then take the credit for using them to inflate next year's profits.

The City, of course, is not fooled, as it is used to smoothing out any one-off humps to give a view on underlying performance — supposedly. Consider two releases that hit analysts' desks this week.

A profits model for Railtrack from SBC Warburg, in charge of the float this summer, assumes an £11 million exceptional loss for last year, and each of the next five financial years. In other words, one-off, unpredictable costs will cost exactly this, on each and every year to the end of the century. Just this number of wildebeest — no more, no less.

More seriously, yesterday Pilkington announced a £155 million exceptional charge to cover restructuring and job losses, even though the jobs have not yet been agreed or, apparently, even identified. A certain, but unquantified, number will be in St Helens, Pilkington's home base and the focus of that extraordinary local loyalty that helped fight off the 1986 bid from big bad conglomerate BTR.

This looks perilously close to what Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, calls "big bath"

accounting — you pour the bath as deep as you can, and then run off the water later to the depth needed. For Pilkington, which was being unhelpful about the actual numbers yesterday, it has two advantages. Big provisions allow pretty well any dividend to be paid, without reference to niceties such as whether it is covered by real earnings.

Second, the exceptionals, covering a three-year programme, come in just months before action from the ASB to tighten the accounting rules even further — action that might make such provisions rather less acceptable in the future.

### Jaguar pounces on state subsidy

RELIEF and joy abound among the ragged-trousered engineers of Coventry and the barefooted teenagers of Castle Bromwich. The grateful indigent of the English Midlands will doubtless wave multi-starred European Union flags gratefully at any passing Volkswagen or Renault in case they should

### PENNINGTON



contain one of those stern but fair officials from Brussels. At last, these officials have graciously permitted the British Government to hand £40 million smackers, as well as £40 million in kind, to Ford. This aid succeeded in persuading America's number two auto group to build its new small Jaguar car in our starving regional outpost.

Otherwise, so it is said, Ford might well have made the highly traditional, hand-crafted Old-English Jaguar in Hicksville, Michigan, the Philippines or Sri Lanka. You might think that would not have been the ideal marketing play if the plan was to challenge the BMW 5 series with classic British craftsmanship. But Ford certainly convinced

those hard-headed types at the DTI that it was serious and that this was the deal.

Who is quibbling, in any case? State aid to Jaguar is plainly a quite different proposition from foreign state aid for Air France, Iberian Airways or Groupe Bull. To start with, they are state-controlled, Jaguar only used to be. The Government then acted smartly to allow a Ford takeover, thinking this would stop Jaguar sponging off the taxpayers.

Britain's £80 million boost for Jaguar output was also aimed to add new competition for other European car producers, whereas continental state aid for airlines was intended to help close part of the industry's excess capacity. Clearly, the British aid is more creative and since competition is good, it must be good for our continental competitors.

The taxpayers' bill for the belated Jaguar 2.4 replacement is also smaller: comfortably under £100 million compared with the billions pumped into foreign airlines. That is a small price, given that subsidy is still the way of the big-project world. Taxpayers should rejoice too and

trust that Ford markets this exciting new car so well that no-one could conceive of Jaguars being made anywhere else.

### Insurers take cover in claim-free zone

THE rewards for a blameless existence are no longer confined to the afterlife — just promise to walk a safe but dull path in the here-and-now. If you are in a part of the country that has never suffered from floods or subsidence, if you have never been burgled, have driven for 20 years without a scratch on your car, if you live as far as possible from a major city, in short, if you are never likely to make a claim, then, boy, do we have an insurance policy for you.

If, like the rest of us, you have suffered the odd prang, had your video recorder stolen and lost your luggage at a foreign airport, the response is less friendly.

Insurers make much of their ability to pinpoint risk exactly. Why, they ask, should the careful driver in a provincial town be made to pay for the excesses of

the boy racer in the city? But the point of insurance is that risk is pooled. If the industry's argument was taken to its logical conclusion, each of us would be assessed individually.

The possibility of genetic testing brings that logical conclusion much nearer. Swiss Re has drawn back, but some insurers in the United States already require customers to take tests before they buy life assurance. Penalising all but the physically and mentally perfect raises serious moral questions. By contrast, no one should be forced to insure the uninsurable. But most of us fall somewhere between the two.

### Change of course

THERE'S a bit of leakage in the pipes in Mid Kent. The small water company of the same name was five years ago partially sealed against any intrusions from the French Générale des Eaux. The MMC told General Utilities, its UK arm, to cut its stake in Mid Kent to 19.5 per cent and not to team up with others to take that holding higher. But last December, GU chose to gang up with SAUR, another French concern, to propose a bid for Mid Kent. So what has changed in five years? We may soon learn from the courts whether undertakings made to the MMC really do hold water.

## Caradon's profits slump after 'horrendous 1995'

By SARAH BAGNALL

PETER JANSEN, chief executive at Caradon, said 1995 had been "horrendous" and the worst year of recession for the building products group.

He said: "Our main markets of North America, UK and Germany behaved miserably. In the first half, we saw a sharp decline in the US, followed in the second half by very sharp declines in the UK and Germany. It is very unusual for all these markets to give problems at the same time."

The downturn resulted in a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £201.2 million to £114.3 million in the year to December 31. The

underlying decline was exacerbated by £37.3 million of exceptional charges, the bulk of which had been flagged at the interim stage in September. Part of the charge was to cover the cost of 1,600 job cuts previously announced.

In January it emerged that the Stock Exchange had passed to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of its investigation into share dealings ahead of the September profit warning. Mr Jansen said the company had not been contacted by the DTI.

The sharp drop in profits was on the back of a small rise

in sales from £2 billion to £2.1 billion. Acquisitions contributed £156.8 million to sales and £12 million to pre-exceptional operating profits.

Mr Jansen said action was taken as soon as the downturn in the major markets had been identified. "We have accelerated our cost reduction programme, which will be largely completed by the end of the first quarter of 1996," he said. The programme is expected to reap cost benefits of about £25 million in addition to the £25 million cost savings already achieved last year.

All but one of the group's

businesses saw pre-exceptional profits fall. Plumbing, 1994's biggest profit contributor, reported a 51.6 per cent slump in post-exceptional operating profits to £24.1 million. Stripping out the impact of exceptional charges and profits fell 25.7 per cent to £37 million. Mr Jansen said the group's prospects for the current year were underpinned by its strong market positions, cost reductions and new product launches. The final dividend, due June 5, was held at 6.6p making an unchanged total for the year of 9.5p. The shares rose 1p to 204p.

## Apple set for \$700m first-quarter loss

By RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

APPLE COMPUTER expects to incur a \$700 million loss in the first quarter, although its chairman said the company's problems were "fixable". As the shares plunged to a low of \$23.8, against more than \$50 last summer, Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, gave a gloomy outlook for the next few months, with revenues and shipments substantially below last year's levels, and millions of dollars of old inventory left unsold.

Although the computer group had given warning that the current quarter's loss would be more than the \$69

million loss for the final quarter of last year, Wall Street had not expected such a large deficit. The company said that it was due to inventory write-downs and restructuring charges, which include axing about 1,300 employees earlier this year.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

## Barratt to build £90m land fund

By CARL MORTISHED

BARRATT Developments, the housebuilder, is raising £90 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in its land bank, aimed at raising output from 7,000 homes a year to 11,000 in the next three years.

Barratt is offering one new share for every four held at 200p each in its first cash call since 1982. Two new divisions will be established, one in Central London, another in the Thames Valley.

Announcing a 19 per cent increase in half-year profits to £19.1 million before tax, Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said that the company would continue to increase market share even in the absence of a turnaround in the housing

market. He reported net reservations up 7.5 per cent in revenue terms. Sir Lawrie, scornful of suggestions that Barratt would use the funds to takeover other housebuilders, said: "We will look at them as a route to buy land but we won't pay a premium to anyone. You should get a discount for buying in bulk."

The company sold 3,002 houses in the half year to December, 12 per cent up on the previous year, at an average price of £81,600 and increase its land bank to 18,991 units. The interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent and covered 2.5 times by earnings.

Tempos, page 28

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THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
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Win some,  
lose some

JAGUAR will go to Birmingham, thanks to an agreement reached by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission yesterday, but the real deal was struck in the privacy of a box at Murrayfield at the beginning of March. When Ian Lung, President of the Board of Trade, and fellow Scot Alex Trotman, president of Ford Jaguar, watched their beloved rugby team lose to England, the decision to take 1,300 jobs and a £400 million investment to Birmingham was secured. It was as the two men commiserated over Scotland's defeat that they sealed Ford's commitment to make Jaguars in Britain. In spite of the European Commission's shilly-shallying over its £80 million aid package.

Pot du jour

ONLY foolhardy foodies would take the advice of the new *Egon Ronay's Guide 1996 Oriental Restaurants*, which singles out British Beef Mousman as this year's winning dish. A panel of judges from Egon Ronay and the Meat & Livestock Commission dived head first for the dish of thinly sliced beef in a peanut butter curry, which was prepared in Yum Yum, the Thai restaurant, by Oriental Chef of the Year Atique Choudry. The panel's decision was made last autumn.



Ronay: judging panel

JAMES CAPEL, analysts are clearly great beef eaters. The winners in this year's stock selection, paraded in its fortnightly newsletter, include Harisons & Crosfield, which has exposure to animal feeds and Northern Foods, which handles milk and meat products. Then there's TSN, which has links with asbestos, and the financial company with the unfortunate name of Cattle.

Smoke alarm

IN THESE health conscious days, smoking has become a minority habit for all but a handful of public figures. The cigar-smoking Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is one notable exception as is Bank Governor Eddie George. Now steady Eddie, a seasoned cigarette smoker, is getting a soul mate when lawyer Tricia Howse, assistant director of the Serious Fraud Office, takes her highly rated fraudbusting skills to the Bank's prosecutions department.

Self service

GARDNER Merchant, the UK's largest caterer, which packs 3,000 business-size lunch boxes for the Institute of Directors conference at the Royal Albert Hall every year, is now assembling buffet-size boxes for ravenous theatregoers. Since the introduction of eat-in-down seat hampers went down so well with the audience at *Passion* in the Queens Theatre last night, Stoll Moss, the West End theatre group, hopes to take its idea to the English National Opera. The grub, including canapés, smoked salmon sandwiches, and truffles, costs £12.50 with wine or £20 with champagne and can be ordered with your tickets.

MORAG PRESTON

Philip  
Bowring on  
British  
pension fund  
investment  
in the colony

IT's one of those items that really belongs in Ripley's *Believe It Not*. Whether future British retirees still smarting from the Robert Maxwell episode would be amused by it is debatable. But it is a fact that British pension funds have almost as much money invested in the tiny Hong Kong stock market as in the whole of the US. Indeed, the figure probably rose because of the frenzied foreign buying of Hong Kong shares in the first weeks of this year.

Peking's threats against Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements and Taiwan have underlined the political dangers to an economy that depends so much on international confidence and China's relations with the West rather than on what it produces. Forgetting politics, Hong Kong is ludicrously overvalued. According to figures on UK pension fund asset allocation, these funds in the last quarter of 1995 had 5.8 per cent of their total assets invested in the markets grouped under the heading "Pacific Rim excluding Japan", an increase from 4.8 per cent a year earlier. By contrast, just 2.9 per cent were in the US.

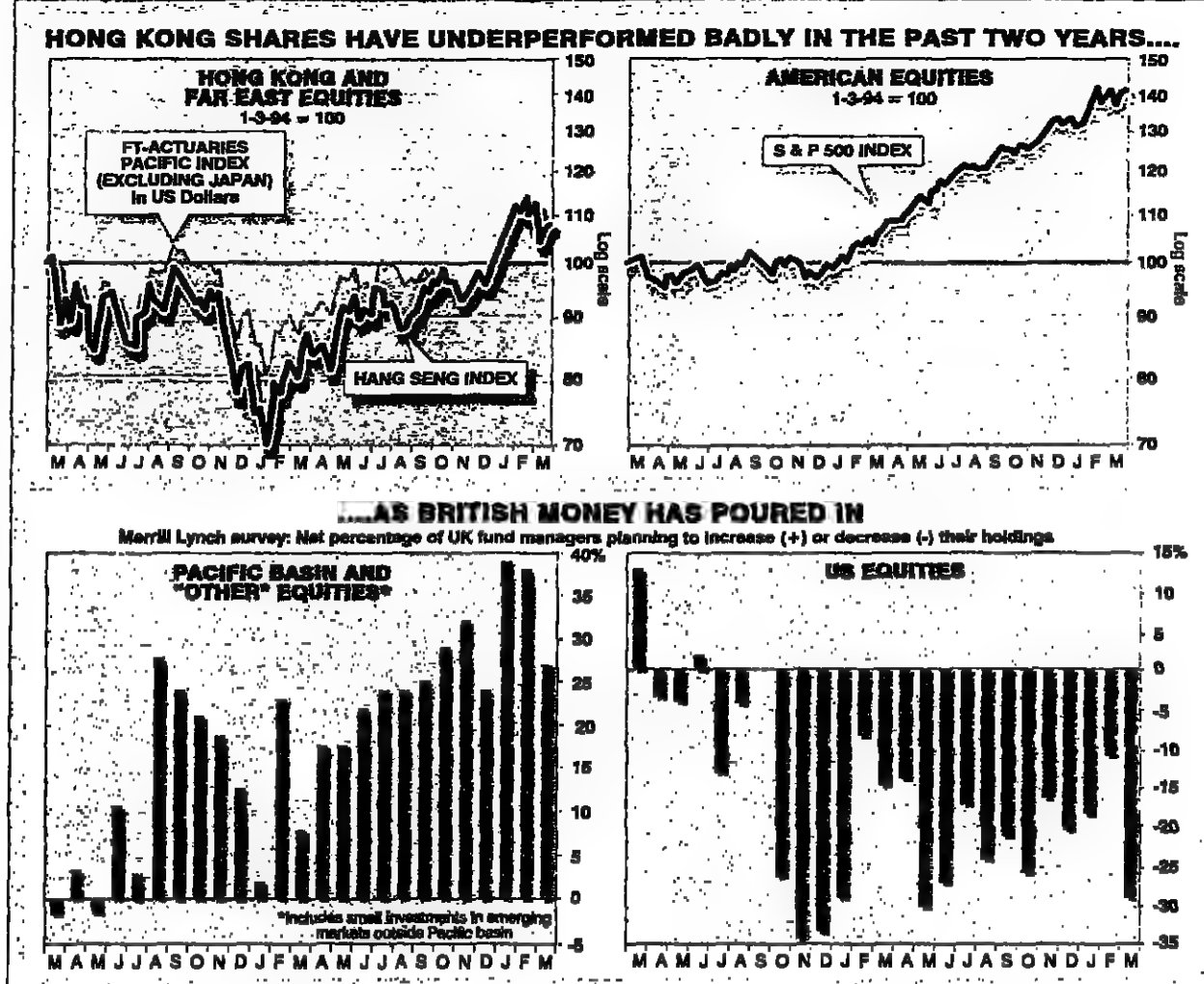
Data from Pacific Rim and Asia ex-Japan mutual funds and anecdotal evidence indicates that the norm for such funds is to invest 35-40 per cent of assets in Hong Kong. Salomon Brothers recently recommended a 42 per cent HK weighting for Asia ex-Japan. On the basis of the figures, UK pension funds would now have a total exposure to Hong Kong of about 2.5 per cent of total assets. Add in holdings in Singapore, which normally account for at least 15 per cent of Rim portfolios, and the exposure to two city states exceeds that to the capitalist world's premier market. The two have a combined GDP of about one 40th that of the US.

This bizarre fact poses questions about the judgment of highly paid management groups. Just why is Hong Kong such a magnet for foreign money? In the short term, foreign fund managers' bullish attitudes to Hong Kong contrast with the wariness of local investors facing an economic slowdown, the uncertainties of 1997, and regional tensions. Recently, Hong Kong companies have been able to get away with huge share placements to foreign institutions that would have sent shudders through the market if offered as rights to existing local shareholders.

On a longer view, Hong Kong companies have performed well in terms of earnings growth. But presumably the fund managers have some inkling of the fact that most major Hong Kong companies owe their high levels of profitability to the oligarchical arrangements that prevail in Hong Kong's property, banking and utility sectors and to

ECONOMIC VIEW

# Hong Kong becomes a magnet for foreign cash



asset-price inflation occasioned by years of negative real interest rates that have only recently ended. They may also have noticed that over the years asset-price inflation has been helped along by a weak currency. The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 50 per cent against sterling.

So why should fund managers prefer these funds to US markets with their vast array of leading-edge global firms, high-tech leaders, and a huge domestic market for everyone or to Asian countries that have better economic growth records and prospects? There is a certain amount of self-fulfilling prophecy in the managers' behaviour in a relatively small market such as Hong Kong. A rising mar-

ket whenever "emerging markets" or "Asia" become hot themes. This applies almost as much to US investors as Britons. The Americans pumped US\$6 billion into Hong Kong in 1993 and 1994 and returned with a vengeance in late 1995 after a lull. These are huge sums and entirely disproportionate to a territory of six million people. Most HK companies are primarily dependent on Hong Kong for their earnings - whatever may be the future promise of China. If China really is the draw, why the cold shoulder to China's B and H shares that provide an entrée into the real China of industrial production and growing markets, not theersatz China of Hong Kong.

One answer fund managers

Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan have several companies that are global leaders. They also have domestic consumer markets far bigger and faster growing than Hong Kong. Yet they attract only a fraction of the pension money supposedly being invested in the Asia concept. One reason is the difficulty of entry. But this is often exaggerated.

A big problem with rational asset allocation is the weighting of self-styled international industries that often omit Korea and Taiwan because they deem them insufficiently open. As a result, funds seeking to track the indices ignore major economies and pile into little ones. So many funds are more concerned with judging each other by short-term performance or against indices that they inevitably ignore altogether or seriously underweight the larger and more dynamic economies like those of Korea, even when they have active markets. Some pension funds have genuine legal difficulty with foreign exchange regulations in South Korea and Taiwan. But if choice of indices of Asia are to be so distorted, it is no wonder that the asset allocations will be too. Thus funds end up with billions worth of property and other Hong Kong companies that are nothing outside their little territory but look askance at the region's manufacturing giants.

Cultural factors are strongly in evidence too. Hong Kong has all the leading Anglo (Teutonic)-American firms of brokers and fund managers who like to deal with the familiar - that is each other. They are the ones who give Hong Kong blue-chips liquidity. Even without (or because of) a lack of control on kick-

backs, Hong Kong is the best place in the region to base fund management operations. Managers, being human, tend to believe they live at the centre of the world. Singapore and Malaysia, with their colonial linkages of language, laws and schools ride naturally on some aspects of the cultural bandwagon.

Markets where foreigners are of relatively little consequence tend to be viewed either with extra suspicion, or at least as unsuitable benchmarks.

Five years ago, before the opening of South Korea, Taiwan, India and Indonesia, there was reason for the over-weighting of Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. But then UK pension funds stake in Asia was much smaller. To have 5.8 per cent in Asia ex-Japan is not in itself unreasonable. Likewise to believe that the US is too close to a peak for comfort is fair enough. But as much in Hong Kong as the US, there is so much to choose from in fast growing Asia? There are explanations for that Ripley-esque statistic. Whether there is an excuse is another matter.

Anatole Kaletsky is away for two weeks

## Contrary to received wisdom in London, Hong Kong is not a small shareholders' paradise

will give is that Hong Kong is an open and liquid market. But it is no bigger than Taiwan. True, it is more open to foreigners, but Singapore attracts much investment in spite of restrictions on foreign ownership of top companies that have led to foreign institutions paying huge premiums for a presence.

Pension funds, one might suppose, were investing for the long term not for fast in-and-out profit, for the benefit of their beneficiaries rather than the brokers. Other economies have infinitely better claims to being the cutting edge of the new Asia. Hong Kong is a narrowly focused market in a mature economy. It shares with Malaysia and Singapore (thanks to the foreigners) a market capitalisation to GDP ratio of well over 200 per cent - far higher than found elsewhere in the world. Unlike

namic economies like those of Korea, even when they have active markets. Some pension funds have genuine legal difficulty with foreign exchange regulations in South Korea and Taiwan. But if choice of indices of Asia are to be so distorted, it is no wonder that the asset allocations will be too. Thus funds end up with billions worth of property and other Hong Kong companies that are nothing outside their little territory but look askance at the region's manufacturing giants.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

### Return to apprenticeships needed

From Mr Thomas P. Hartley Sir, Today's business section contains a report, "Bosses worried over education of job applicants, March 25", on the IoD's study regarding the failure of the education system to provide suitable candidates for industrial training, and on the facing page, a report "Too few firms have a training budget" on research which suggests a dearth of training places for those who do qualify. Both reports make sad reading. It is time for a sense of urgency to be injected into both education and vocational training. Why not a return to the rigours of a formal system of apprentice training which

### The cure for telecommunication ills

required satisfactory results in both skill and educational achievement, measured by external examination. The result would be a certificate of competence allowing the holder to enter a closed system as a registered practitioner. A combination of daytime work and evening education, not only weeds out non-performers, but instils in those with ambition and self-motivation, a sense of responsibility and a desire to progress towards desirable personal goals. Yours faithfully, THOMAS P. HARTLEY, Blanford Cottage, 23 Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey.

From Mr Bill Dixon Sir, The UK telecommunication industry is in trouble. Twelve years of tinkering with competition at the boundary level leaves BT with a dominant market share, reinforced by the control it exerts over its competitors as the main supplier of interconnect. The price reductions achieved by regulation are nothing special for a high-tech business. Regulation is ever more interventionist and adversarial; BT cannot take ordinary management decisions about its products and prices, while competitors find it difficult to enter the market without the appropriate

dispensations from Ofel. Ofel itself cannot cope. In effect, telecommunication is being run by an overburdened government bureaucracy which tells the industry what to do. We are back to square one. Uncertainty and delay are damaging the confidence of new entrants and suppressing the development and adoption of new technology. Britain's worldwide status as an innovator in telecommunications is fading fast. The one sure-fire cure for all ills is to break up BT. Surely a formula can be arrived at which makes this acceptable to BT as well as to everyone else. Yours faithfully, BILL DIXON, Partner, Dixon, Goodwin & Co, Osbourne House, Beckett's Wharf, Lower Teddington Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

### Executors liable for dead names' debts

From Mr A. J. F. Hill Sir, It isn't only the Lloyd's names who are displeased by the recent settlement proposals. There are now about 3,200 executors who are personally liable for the deceased names' debts. Some of them, such as myself, act for an estate that is not protected by estate plan protection. For us, a settle-

ment that promises "finality" - but which cannot deliver FINALITY (because Equitas is so open-ended) is worse than useless. Lloyd's has made absolutely no attempt to inform or advise executors on how to proceed - we are not allowed into

Lloyd's - just expected to sanction the losses - or pay them personally if we trust that the Equitas arrangements as proposed will be adequate - and subsequently find they are not. Yours faithfully, ADRIAN HILL, Executor to J. K. Hill, 8 Ebner Street, SW1.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

# Labour sets the agenda for a skill revolution

Philip Bassett on the Opposition's controversial training plans

Today, the Labour party will say: "We believe that government does have a responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution, and to play a role in making that happen. A Labour government will accept the responsibility which the Tories have shunned."

Bold words from the Labour party's new policy proposals on training, to be unveiled today. It will set out key proposals on training which business leaders have been eager to hear. But some traditional Labour supporters, trade union leaders, for instance, see the final, formal abandonment of a commitment to a training levy on employers who fail to train, as yet another retrograde step by new Labour. John Edmonds of the GMB general union, views the move away from the five guaranteed days training a year in the document, *The Skills Revolution - Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, as a step in the wrong direction, and is understood to have made his views on

markets which simply do not need higher skill levels for profitability.

However short-term that view is, it is dominant in Britain, especially among small firms. Britain's training problem does not lie with Marks & Spencer or ICI but with the vast swathe of companies who know they can get by without training.

A training levy was meant to address just this problem by forcing companies to train, or face a fine. But the levy did not achieve that. Labour says that the levy system reinforced rigid sectoral barriers, failed to cover many employment areas altogether, was highly bureaucratic and could not match the training performance of some of Britain's key competitors. But where sectors still want to keep their boards and their levies, such as engineering construction and building, Labour says the levy will remain in place - a point which the party will say demonstrates clearly its intention to work with industry and not against it. Labour's work-

plans - tax incentives for employees to take up tripartite-funded individual learning accounts (ILAs), under which people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard - has incentives, though critics argue it dunks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

Critics also argue that the ILAs will be taken up mainly by sophisticated labour market participants. For its part, the Labour leadership is convinced it has found a winner with the proposals, which it is convinced will find strong favour with both business and individuals. "In five years' time," says one key new Labour adviser, "people will look back on this as a turning point. That's how important to business, the economy and to individual people our training proposals will be."

## 6 People will look back on this as a turning point

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## Federal Reserve 'spending too much'

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve Board has been severely criticised by the General Accounting Office, which checks on the efficiency of public bodies in America, for excessive spending, poor management and unnecessary secrecy. The GAO also recommended overhauling the Fed's structure by merging the 12 regional Federal Reserve banks and their branches.

The GAO report, the result of a two-year investigation, says the central bank's control of its own spending is inadequate. Between 1988 and 1994 its operating expenses rose 50 per cent to \$2 billion, twice the rate of inflation and more than three times the average overall increase in federal government spending. While staff numbers have risen only 4 per cent to 25,745, compensation costs have soared by more than 50 per cent.

The news of the central bank's profligacy has caused annoyance among politicians on Capitol Hill who have become used to lectures from Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, on the necessity of cutting government spending.

The GAO also said that a \$3.7 billion contingency fund, nearly half of it built up since Mr Greenspan became Chairman in 1988, was held by the Fed without justification. The central bank normally returns between \$10-\$24 billion to the US Treasury each year as a result of profits on its own operations. The report is a serious embarrassment for the Fed which jealously guards its independence from encroachments by politicians.

Although the GAO did not set out to criticise the way the central bank carried out its main functions of setting monetary policy and regulating the banking sector, it accused it of being unnecessarily secretive and unaccountable in the way it operated.



Motoring on: David McGibbon, financial director, left, and Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive of Grampian Holdings yesterday

## Higgs and Hill suffers as housing sector stays flat

BY MARTIN BARROW

HIGGS and HILL, the UK construction company, yesterday warned shareholders that its markets remain stubbornly flat. The first half of the current year was likely to be difficult, although an anticipated improvement in housing and property markets, together with a reorganisation of the company's construction activities, would enable progress to be made in the second half. The company

said it had managed to break even in 1995 before provisions, earning profits of just £72,000 before tax despite a 22 per cent rise in turnover to £352 million. Profits were £1.3 million in 1994.

Higgs and Hill was obliged to make exceptional provisions of £3.5 million against a contract with Guy's Hospital in London. There were also reorganisation costs of £4.2 million. Although the Guy's

Hospital provision was in line with a statement to shareholders made in December, restructuring charges have increased, reflecting a more substantial reorganisation of construction activities.

George Duncan, chairman, said: "Extraordinarily difficult trading conditions have prevailed in the construction market, in particular in the South East, for an unprecedented period. Against this back-

ground and the outlook for the market, the board has decided to restructure fundamentally its activities in this area." The two principal operations in the South East have been combined, overheads reduced and one office building is in the process of being sold.

Construction activities incurred losses of £1.14 million last year before provisions and reorganisation costs of £7.13 million, leaving a total loss of £8.3 million.

However, property contributed £2.3 million (nil) and housing, which broke even in 1994, earned £585,000. The housing division sold 405 homes, compared with 316 previously, at a slightly higher average price of £87,000, reflecting a changed product mix.

Higgs and Hill is maintaining the total dividend at 2.5p for the year, with a final payment of 1.5p due June 5. Losses were 11.9p a share, compared with earnings of 1.6p. The shares fell 2p to 88p.

## BSE 'will not affect' Grampian

BY ERIC REGULY

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish veterinary services, transport and sporting goods group said the likely slaughter of millions of cattle due to the BSE scare will not affect its operations because most of its vaccines are for sheep.

The company wants to expand its cattle vaccine business and is launching a new bovine vaccine called BVD. But bovine products are likely to be only a small proportion of sales for some time.

The company reported a pre-tax profit of £10.5 million in the year to December 31, up 23 per cent on the comparable period, on turnover of £147 million, up 6.4 per cent. Earnings per share were 10.43p (8.73p). A final dividend of 4.3p is to be paid, making the total payout 6.1p (5.75p).

Gramplan said that its transport and sporting goods divisions reported stronger results, though profits on its veterinary side declined by 6.1 per cent to £4.5 million. Lower sheep populations in Australia and New Zealand were blamed for the downturn.

## Croda falls after shift in emphasis

A SHIFT out of cosmetics and toiletries cost Croda International £14.1 million and helped to cut pre-tax profits from £42.8 million to £25.3 million. Croda is now concentrating on speciality chemicals in which it spent £35.7 million on new plant and lifted sales by 11 per cent in the year to the end of December. It pulled out of cosmetics almost entirely last year, incurring the £14.1 million loss with a string of disposals.

The company, which saw a slowdown in the second half of the year, said that trading looked likely to improve this year, although it thought most of the growth would come outside Europe. The final dividend, payable July 1, was set at 0.1p. It makes a total for the year of 9.35p, up from 8.9p the previous year. Over the past three years, Croda has spent £90 million on new plant. Michael Valentine, the chairman, said: "We are exceptionally fortunate in being able to foresee expanding markets for many of our chemical products so that laying down new plant is based on confidence rather than speculation." Croda exports 61 per cent of its UK-manufactured products after a growth in sales to overseas markets of 77 per cent in four years.

## TransTec in the black

TRANSTEC, the automotive products and controls company, returned to profit in 1995, earning £6.7 million before tax. In the previous year, the company incurred losses of £12.5 million after exceptional restructuring costs. A final dividend of 2p a share lifts the total to 2.2p from 1.5p, payable from earnings of 5p a share (losses of 11.4p). The shares rose 7p to 98p. Capital expenditure in 1995 was £11.2 million, including £7.3 million relating to a new laundry and machining facility in Northern Ireland.

## Aer Lingus soars

AER LINGUS, the Irish national flag carrier, said yesterday it could only fulfil its potential by engaging in profitable alliances, partnerships and joint venture arrangements with other international carriers. Gary McCiann, the company's chief executive, was cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the group. The airline made an overall operating profit of £153.2 million in 1995, against £133.1 million in 1994, and reported a net profit of £15.1 million, after a loss of £123.6 million a year earlier.

## Rutland Trust advances

RUTLAND TRUST, the port services and corporate finance company that acquired Thamesport, the deep water container port, for £32.5 million last year, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £12.85 million from £9.3 million in the year. The rise includes a £2 million profit on the sale of Leasecontract, the hire business, to General Electric Capital Corporation for £27.9 million. Adjusted earnings increased to 2.75p a share from 2.3p. The total dividend rises to 1.2p a share from 1p, with a final 0.87p due on May 24. The shares stayed at 46p.

## Frederick Cooper falls

PROFITS at Frederick Cooper, the specialist coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, fell to £1.74 million before tax in the six months to January 31 from £3.4 million. However, the interim dividend rises to 0.85p a share from 0.8p, payable on July 1, from earnings that fell to 2.3p a share from 5.1p. The shares were unchanged at 45p yesterday. Ed Kirk, chairman, said market conditions would remain tough in the short term but raw material prices had stabilised and overhead costs were tightly controlled.

## For your company golf day... it's the business



The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not just socially based) in the British Isles, which runs a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

### How to participate

1. All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 10th September 1996.
3. The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Standardised competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October 1996.
4. Your team of four will, if their company is selected, be invited to play 25 corporate rounds in your region, qualify for a regional final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in September. It is then open for a day TV broadcast.
6. Golf days registered after 10th September or played after 22nd September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

### Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times 'Fortunestelling golf days' feature.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' column.
- A set of four professional event trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the event programme for each of your golf day.
- A golf day management reference program for your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine - The Business Golf.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as it goes to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for your golf day organisers.

### Rules and Regulations

The competition is governed by the RGA for payment of expenses - Rule 1.4 (a) 7 (BANKING). A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers at:

0171 436 3415 or  
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)  
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

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Company address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of company representative (in whose name all correspondence will be sent): \_\_\_\_\_  
Will be taking a golf day at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
If the name and date of your golf day have yet to be decided, please leave this box blank and return us as soon as it is confirmed.

2. Trophy Requirements  
The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as given on Section 1 above, will be inscribed, as will the date and name of the golf day. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or prefer another name altogether, please print here: \_\_\_\_\_

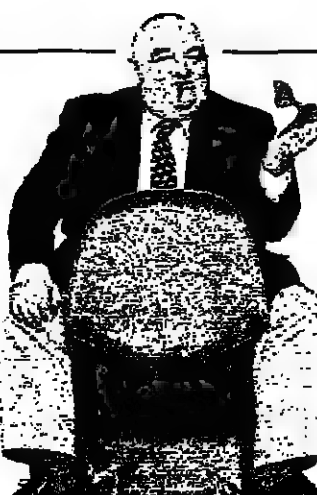
3. I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £250.00 net. VAT, made payable to The Times Mees Pierson C.C. Please send the completed form to The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Haverhill, Hertfordshire AL9 5DL. A VAT refund will be sent with acknowledgement.



## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# MAIDEN BRITAIN

The new supermodels who won't get out of school for less than £5,000 a day are at the forefront of the latest Brit revolution in fashion, design and photography that is changing the way the world looks. See the Magazine on Sunday



## PLUS 28 PAGES OF INSPIRING INTERIORS

The top ten chairs; the London lair of Bruce Oldfield; Michael Winner's bedroom; and the radically remodelled warehouse home of a leading designer

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1986		1985		1984		1983		1982		1981		1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		1967		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940		1939		1938		1937		1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623		1622		1621		1620		1619		1618		1617		1616		1615		1614		1613		1612		1611		1610		1609		1608		1607		1606		1605		1604		1603		1602		1601		1600		1599		1598		1597		1596		1595		1594		1593		1592		1591		1590		1589		1588		1587		1586		1585		1584		1583		1582		1581		1580		1579		1578		1577		1576		1575		1574		1573		1572		1571		1570		1569		1568		1567		1566		1565		1564		1563		1562		1561		1560		1559		1558		1557		1556		1555		1554		1553		1552		1551		1550		1549		1548		1547		1546		1545		1544		1543		1542		1541		1540		1539		1538		1537		1536		1535		1534		1533		1532		1531		1530		1529		1528		1527		1526		1525		1524		1523		1522		1521		1520		1519		1518		1517		1516		1515		1514		1513		1512		1511		1510		1509		1508		1507		1506		1505		1504		1503		1502		1501		1500		1499		1498		1497		1496		1495		1494		1493		1492		1491		1490		1489		1488		1487		1486		1485		1484		1483		1482		1481		1480		1479		1478		1477		1476		1475		1474		1473		1472		1471		1470		1469		1468		1467		1466		1465		1464		1463		1462		1461		1460		1459		1458		1457		1456		1455		1454		1453		1452		1451		1450		1449		1448		1447		1446		1445		1444		1443		1442		1441		1440		1439		1438		1437		1436		1435		1434		1433		1432		1431		1430		1429		1428		1427		1426		1425		1424		1423		1422		1421		1420		1419		1418		1417		1416		1415		1414		1413		1412		1411		1410		1409		1408		1407		1406		1405		1404		1403		1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396		1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389		1388		1387		1386		1385		1384		1383		1382		1381		1380		1379		1378		1377		1376		1375		1374		1373		1372		1371		1370		1369		1368		1367		1366		1365		1364		1363		1362		1361		1360		1359		1358		1357		1356		1355		1354		1353		1352		1351		1350		1349		1348		1347		1346		1345		1344		1343		1342		1341		1340		1339		1338		1337		1336		1335		1334		1333		1332		1331		1330		1329		1328		1327		1326		1325		1324		1323		1322		1321		1320		1319		1318		1317		1316		1315		1314		1313		1312		1311		1310		1309		1308		1307		1306		1305		1304		1303		1302		1301		1300		1299		1298		1297		1296		1295		1294		1293		1292		1291		1290		1289		1288		1287		1286		1285		1284		1283		1282		1281		1280		1279		1278		1277		1276		1275		1274		1273		1272		1271		1270		1269		1268		1267		1266		1265		1264		1263		1262		1261		1260		1259		1258		1257		1256		1255		1254		1253		1252		1251		1250		1249		1248		1247		1246		1245		1244		1243		1242		1241		1240		1239		1238		1237		1236		1235		1234		1233		1232		1231		1230		1229		1228		1227		1226		1225		1224		1223		1222		1221		1220		1219		1218		1217		1216		1215		1214		1213		1212		1211		1210		1209		1208		1207		1206		1205		1204		1203		1202		1201		1200		1199		1198		1197		1196		1195		1194		1193		1192		1191		1190		1189		1188		1187		1186		1185		1184		1183		1182		1181		1180		1179		1178		1177		1176		1175		1174		1173		1172		1171		1170		1169		1168		1167		1166		1165		1164		1163		1162		1161		1160		1159		1158		1157		1156		1155		1154		11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[illegible]

1992	1991	Company	Price	YTD	%	1992
127	127	6 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
128	128	7 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
129	129	8 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
130	130	9 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
131	131	10 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
132	132	11 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
133	133	12 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
134	134	13 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
135	135	14 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
136	136	15 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
137	137	16 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
138	138	17 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
139	139	18 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
140	140	19 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
141	141	20 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
142	142	21 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
143	143	22 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
144	144	23 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
145	145	24 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
146	146	25 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
147	147	26 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
148	148	27 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
149	149	28 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
150	150	29 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
151	151	30 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
152	152	31 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
153	153	32 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
154	154	33 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
155	155	34 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
156	156	35 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
157	157	36 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
158	158	37 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
159	159	38 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
160	160	39 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
161	161	40 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
162	162	41 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
163	163	42 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
164	164	43 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
165	165	44 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
166	166	45 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
167	167	46 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
168	168	47 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
169	169	48 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
170	170	49 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
171	171	50 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
172	172	51 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
173	173	52 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
174	174	53 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
175	175	54 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
176	176	55 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
177	177	56 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
178	178	57 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
179	179	58 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
180	180	59 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
181	181	60 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
182	182	61 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
183	183	62 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
184	184	63 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
185	185	64 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
186	186	65 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
187	187	66 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
188	188	67 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
189	189	68 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
190	190	69 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
191	191	70 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
192	192	71 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
193	193	72 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
194	194	73 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
195	195	74 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
196	196	75 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
197	197	76 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
198	198	77 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
199	199	78 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
200	200	79 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
201	201	80 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
202	202	81 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
203	203	82 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
204	204	83 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
205	205	84 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
206	206	85 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
207	207	86 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
208	208	87 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
209	209	88 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
210	210	89 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
211	211	90 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
212	212	91 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
213	213	92 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
214	214	93 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
215	215	94 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
216	216	95 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
217	217	96 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
218	218	97 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
219	219	98 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
220	220	99 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
221	221	100 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
222	222	101 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
223	223	102 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
224	224	103 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
225	225	104 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
226	226	105 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
227	227	106 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
228	228	107 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
229	229	108 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
230	230	109 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
231	231	110 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
232	232	111 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
233	233	112 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
234	234	113 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
235	235	114 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
236	236	115 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
237	237	116 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
238	238	117 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
239	239	118 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
240	240	119 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
241	241	120 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
242	242	121 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
243	243	122 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
244	244	123 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
245	245	124 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
246	246	125 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
247	247	126 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
248	248	127 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
249	249	128 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
250	250	129 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
251	251	130 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
252	252	131 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
253	253	132 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
254	254	133 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
255	255	134 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
256	256	135 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
257	257	136 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
258	258	137 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
259	259	138 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
260	260	139 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
261	261	140 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
262	262	141 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
263	263	142 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
264	264	143 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
265	265	144 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
266	266	145 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
267	267	146 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
268	268	147 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
269	269	148 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
270	270	149 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
271	271	150 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
272	272	151 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
273	273	152 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
274	274	153 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
275	275	154 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
276	276	155 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
277	277	156 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
278	278	157 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
279	279	158 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
280	280	159 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
281	281	160 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
282	282	161 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
283	283	162 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
284	284	163 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
285	285	164 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
286	286	165 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
287	287	166 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
288	288	167 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
289	289	168 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
290	290	169 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
291	291	170 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
292	292	171 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
293	293	172 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
294	294	173 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
295	295	174 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
296	296	175 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
297	297	176 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
298	298	177 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
299	299	178 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
300	300	179 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
301	301	180 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
302	302	181 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
303	303	182 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
304	304	183 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
305	305	184 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
306	306	185 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
307	307	186 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
308	308	187 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
309	309	188 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
310	310	189 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
311	311	190 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
312	312	191 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
313	313	192 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
314	314	193 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
315	315	194 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
316	316	195 Manna Co. Wm	107	1	47	31.1
317	317	196 Manna Co. Wm	107	1		

1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000
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5493	5494	5495	5496	5497	5498	5499	5500	5501	5502	5503	5504	5505	5506	5507	5508	5509	5510	5511	5512	5513	5514	5515	5516	5517	5518	5519	5520	5521	5522	5523	5524	5525	5526	5527	5528	5529	5530	5531	5532	5533	5534	5535	5536	5537	5538	5539	5540	5541	5542	5543	5544	5545	5546	5547	5548	5549	5550	5551	5552	5553	5554	5555	5556	5557	5558	5559	5560	5561	5562	5563	5564	5565	5566	5567	5568	5569	5570	5571	5572	5573	5574	5575	5576	5577	5578	5579	5580	5581	5582	5583	5584	5585	5586	5587	5588	5589	5590	5591	5592	5593	5594	5595	5596	5597	5598	5599	5600	5601	5602	5603	5604	5605	5606	5607	5608	5609	5610	5611	5612	5613	5614	5615	5616	5617	5618	5619	5620	5621	5622	5623	5624	5625	5626	5627	5628	5629	5630	5631	5632	5633	5634	5635	5636	5637	5638	5639	5640	5641	5642	5643	5644	5645	5646	5647	5648	5649	5650	5651	5652	5653	5654	5655	5656	5657	5658	5659	5660	5661	5662	5663	5664	5665	5666	5667	5668	5669	5670	5671	5672	5673	5674	5675	5676	5677	5678	5679	5680	5681	5682	5683	5684	5685	5686	5687	5688	5689	5690	5691	5692	5693	5694	5695	5696	5697	5698	5699	5700	5701	5702	5703	5704	5705	5706	5707	5708	5709	5710	5711	5712	5713	5714	5715	5716	5717	5718	5719	5720	5721	5722	5723	5724	5725	5726	5727	5728	5729	5730	5731	5732	5733	5734	5735	5736	5737	5738	5739	5740	5741	5742	5743	5744	5745	5746	5747	5748	5749	5750	5751	5752	5753	5754	5755	5756	5757	5758	5759	5760	5761	5762	5763	5764	5765	5766	5767	5768	5769	5770	5771	5772	5773	5774	5775	5776	5777	5778	5779	5780	5781	5782	5783	5784	5785	5786	5787	5788	5789	5790	5791	5792	5793	5794	5795	5796	5797	5798	5799	5800	5801	5802	5803	5804	5805	5806	5807	5808	5809	5810	5811	5812	5813	5814	5815	5816	5817	5818	5819	5820	5821	5822	5823	5824	5825	5826	5827	5828	5829	5830	5831	5832	5833	5834	5835	5836	5837	5838	5839	5840	5841	5842	5843	5844	5845	5846	5847	5848	5849	5850	5851	5852	5853	5854	5855	5856	5857	5858	5859	5860	5861	5862	5863	5864	5865	5866	5867	5868	5869	5870	5871	5872	5873	5874	5875	5876	5877	5878	5879	5880	5881	5882	5883	5884	5885	5886	5887	5888	5889	5890	5891	5892	5893	5894	5895	5896	5897	5898	5899	5900	5901	5902	5903	5904	5905	5906	5907	5908	5909	5910	5911	5912	5913	5914	5915	5916	5917	5918	5919	5920	5921	5922	5923	5924	5925	5926	5927	5928	5929	5930	5931	5932	5933	5934	5935	5936	5937	5938	5939	5940	5941	5942	59
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SUPPORT SERVICES									
1132	620	ADT	1098	+ 5	51	117			
1133	52	Admiral Agency	117	35	34	86	262		
1134	100	Admiral Agency	117	35	34	86	262		
1135	305	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1136	305	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1137	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1138	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1139	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1140	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1141	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1142	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1143	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1144	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1145	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1146	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1147	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
1148	100	ADP	203	+ 1	28	33			
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1304	100	ADP	203</						

This image is a vertical strip of a document page, heavily degraded with noise and artifacts. It shows a dark, irregular shape near the bottom, which could be a signature or a mark, but the rest of the page is obscured by heavy noise and a vertical band of high contrast.

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International Internet Name Registry

[illegible][illegible]

115	2654 Adams Bakery	105		2.8	15.7
116	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
117	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
118	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
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200	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7

RETAILERS, FOOD					
115	2654 Adams Bakery	105		2.8	15.7
116	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
117	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
118	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
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199	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7
200	2654 Argus	105	1	2.8	15.7

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39	21	95	1	2	32.2
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93	21	95	1	2	32.2
94	21	95	1	2	32.2
95	21	95	1	2	32.2
96	21	95	1	2	32.2
97	21	95	1	2	32.2
98	21	95	1	2	32.2
99	21	95	1	2	32.2
100	21	95	1	2	32.2

41	London	152	+ 5	13	15.2
42	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
43	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
44	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
45	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
46	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
47	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
48	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
49	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
50	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
51	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
52	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
53	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
54	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
55	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
56	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
57	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
58	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
59	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
60	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
61	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
62	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
63	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
64	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
65	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
66	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
67	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
68	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
69	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
70	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
71	Am. Express	152	+ 5	13	15.2
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FILM 1

Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*



FILM 2

... while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS



FILM 3

Steve Martin dares to duplicate the immortal Phil Silvers, in the vulgar Hollywood remake *Sgt Bilko*



FILM 4

A wolf-dog as hero and plenty of snow, but the animated feature *Balto* doesn't add up to much

# An eye for the irony, a tooth for the truth

CINEMA: Geoff Brown pays his respects to the honest, uncompromising, Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn size up each other in a New Orleans prison. Sarandon, winner of this year's Best Actress Oscar, sits brimming with naive good intentions, trying to be a friend. Penn stares back with a cocky grin, a sculpted goatee, a tight little moustache and hair you don't want to mess with. He stands convicted of killing two teenagers in *Lovers Lane* after raping the girl and stabbing her 17 times. His partner had a better lawyer and got life imprisonment, but Penn's Matthew Poncelet sits on death row. He is surly, hard-hearted, a racist who thinks Hitler went just a bit too far; not an attractive hero. But then *Dead Man Walking* is not interested in parcelling out characters and plot in the conventional Hollywood way. Inspired by Sister Helen Prejean's account of her dealings with Louisiana prisoners, Tim Robbins's powerful film faces up squarely to the conflicts and irony of capital punishment, which inflicts cruel death on those convicted of inflicting the same.

Does Poncelet have a soul to save? Sarandon's Sister Helen believes so. As part of her brief to minister to the New Orleans poor, she visits Poncelet in prison. Although Robbins's script makes visits to the murder scene, the grieving families and the chillingly clinical execution chamber, the film's heart lies in these meetings between two faces, two different worlds, variously separated by grilles, bars or Perseps.

Sarandon is infinitely subtle in her emotional responses; her big brown eyes have rarely gazed with such penetration. She makes Sister Helen no plaster saint, but a fallible human being, tainted with arrogance. She does not hide behind make-up; nor does the prison hide behind gothic shadows. Warm lighting creates an ordinary, bland environment, which packs its own

## Dead Man Walking

Warner West End  
15, 122 mins  
Powerful death row drama

## Cutthroat Island

Warner West End  
PG, 125 mins  
Redundant and miscast pirate movie

## Sgt Bilko

Empire, PG, 95 mins  
Unwelcome spin-off from the TV classic

## Balto

Plaza, U, 78 mins  
Ineffective cartoon set in Alaska

## Dunston Checks In

Odeon West End  
PG, 88 mins  
Havoc with an orange-utan in a five-star hotel

## Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace

Odeon West End  
12, 92 mins  
Moderate high-tech fantasy

eerie punch. As for Penn, none of his past performances matches the intensity of his work here. You might not wish to meet Poncelet in an alley, but on a cinema screen this complex scoundrel, remorse buried deep beneath hate, is a fascinating character.

To some extent Poncelet is the film's own invention: Robbins (see interview below) took two real-life prisoners, one amiable, one not, and merged them. Although the fabrication chips away some of the film's status as a painful true story, it was a smart move dramatically to focus on one relationship. This confident, finely chiselled work is only Robbins's second as director,

after his mischievous political satire *Bob Roberts*. He has taken a giant stride forward.

Renny Harlin, the action-movie maestro, takes a giant stride back with *Cutthroat Island*, an expensive and reckless movie that, inch for inch, probably contains more pirate clichés and gunpowder explosions than any other. It might make a slight dent on people too young to know what a good swashbuckler looks like, although even they may tire at the one-dimensional characters and the dull repetition of chases, swordfights, and debriefs descending in slow-motion.

The star attraction is Geena Davis, the director's wife, giving a supposed feminist twist to the genre as Morgan Adams, a feisty 17th-century lass who assumes control of her father's pirate ship in the Caribbean. Strapped into low-cut dresses, with long straggly hair and a cut across her left eyebrow, Davis literally thrusts herself forward as a tough-talking action heroine. But in doing so, her natural qualities and droll sense of comedy are quashed.

Her companion in misfortune is Matthew Modine, an educated thief who joins Morgan in hunting for buried treasure. Modine's nonchalance might suit modern dramas, but in a period extravaganza like this a puff of wind could blow him away. Unfortunately it does not.

At least Frank Langella relishes the villainous role of Morgan's uncle Dawg. Most of the time, cast and crew strain with effort. Making *Cutthroat Island* used up the resources of Malta, Thailand, Jim Henson's Creature Workshop, a model unit at Pinewood Studios, the London Symphony Orchestra, and \$70 million. The production company, Caroleco, is now fighting for survival. Was it worth it?

Television comedy aficionados rightly regard *The Phil Silvers Show*, produced by Nat Hiken for CBS in the 1950s, as

the eighth wonder of the world. Who would dare duplicate Silvers's creation of Ernest G. Bilko, the fast-talking Master Sergeant dedicated to fleecing every cent from his platoon? The answer, in *Sgt Bilko*, is Steve Martin, last seen updating *Silva Manner* in *A Simple Twist of Fate*. His career choices grow increasingly bizarre.

Where Silvers's motor pool was stocked with veteran character actors, Martin's bunch are fresh-faced youngsters, to match the intended audience. Character names are the same, although Bilko's henchman Henshaw has turned black and Barbella is female. Andy Breckman's script pilfers some of Hiken's best lines, while Martin pillers the famous Bilko yell. The film, directed by Jonathan Lynn, may not be as dire as expectations and the trailer suggested; but no one who has seen the originals will clutch this broad, vulgar spin-off to their bosom.

From *Bilko* to *Balto*: a bland animated film from Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. The story, based at some distance on truth, is set in Alaska during a diphtheria epidemic in 1925. This lands the artists with two big problems. How do you separate one tract of snow

from another? And how do you make entertainment from the illness of children?

Despite using special techniques, director Simon Wells and his team never make the Arctic landscape easy on the eye; it's like staring at a row of white handkerchiefs. As for the children, apart from one grotesque scene of coughing tots lined up in their beds, the focus rests on the animals, dogs chiefly, that ferry antitoxins to town.

*Balto*, half-dog, half-wolf, is an outcast, mocked for his mixed heritage, but the emergency boosts his self-esteem. As he finally tells the town braggart, "Since when do you need a pedigree to help someone?" This is toe-curling stuff, indifferently voiced by Kevin Bacon, Bridget Fonda and others.

Family entertainment perks up slightly with *Dunston Checks In*, a breezy comedy about an orange-utan, two kids and Rupert Everett causing mayhem in a five-star hotel. Unlike *Balto*, the pig, the orange-utan does not speak, but he blows raspberries nicely. Everett does a Terry-Thomas turn as the aristocratic posier who uses the monkey to steal jewels: a tiresome sight, although he gets the film's best line when

he tells his charge, "I have two words to say to you: medical experiment."

The real star of the film is the hotel setting, and youngsters should have reasonable fun seeing luxurious trappings trashed. Adults can amuse themselves watching Jason Alexander (from *Seinfeld*), and ungallantly pondering Faye Dunaway's age. Ken Kwapis, a TV hand, directed.

If phrases such as "virtual reality" and "global interface" bring a sparkle to your eyes, then *Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace* may be just the ticket. Stick-in-the-muds who like movies to reflect concrete reality will have a harder time; although director Farhad Mann shoves enough action on the screen to stop people falling asleep.

Matt Frewer assumes the title role of the scientist's guinea pig who wants to control the world from cyberspace, while Patrick Bergin, "the Einstein of virtual reality," tries to stop him. Nothing in the plot makes much sense; what matters is the video-game spectacle of human projectiles in simulated environments, hurling one second, exploding the next. The film is silly and dishevelled, but there are worse high-tech fantasies around.

## 'Extremely provoking'



Every week young film fans discuss new releases...

**DEAD MAN WALKING**  
Paul Maynard, 18: This is excellent; the best film I've seen since *Schindler's List*. Atmospheric, good cinematography, and Sarandon certainly deserved her Oscar.

James Danton, 18: The scenes with Sarandon and Penn were electrifying. The film is extremely provoking; it has changed my views on the death penalty.  
Thomas Stevens, 18: Excellent. I thought I might be irritated by the moral tone, but it was fairly convincing.  
Alexandra Williams, 22: Extremely good; you come out feeling emotionally battered. Tim Robbins directs really well, and allows you to make your own judgment.

**LAWNMOWER MAN 2**  
Paul: Absolutely dire. This is plotless and ridiculous. The special effects are far from special.

James: This called itself "Beyond Cyberspace", but it was actually beyond help. Even the orange-utan of *Dunston* acted better than the cast of this. Thomas: This was pretty awful. Cliches abounded, and it was corny and annoying like a cheap television feature.  
Alexandra: It only took me a minute to realise that this was horrendous. The effects were nearly all right, but the subject matter just didn't appeal.

**DUNSTON CHECKS IN**  
Paul: I wanted to hate this — I normally hate animal films — but I enjoyed it despite myself. A lot of fun.

James: This was very funny, but if it were any longer, it would have dragged.  
Thomas: Probably more of a kids' movie. I thought I wouldn't like it but it was fun. Not too cheesy either — more a soufflé.  
Alexandra: This was nothing new: good family entertainment, a good cast, the usual characters.

## Dead man talking

Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row

One balmy Louisiana morning 12 years ago, Sister Helen Prejean knocked on the door of a couple awaiting justice after the brutal rape and murder of their 18-year-old daughter. The nun had been counselling the girl's murderer in prison, and had come to say she was sorry for ignoring the parents' inconsolable grief.

Sister Prejean was at first welcomed in. The bereaved parents blessed her for her courage in changing sides. When she said she had not changed sides, merely seen their point of view, she was thrown out on her ear. It was a moment of truth for one of America's leading opponents of the death penalty. It was also an intensely dramatic moment — one that played a large part in bringing her story to the screen and, last Monday, to the Oscars.

"Her courage in knocking on that door really grabbed me," Tim Robbins, the writer and director of *Dead Man Walking*, said recently. "That was an extraordinary act. In adapting her book I was looking for the human angle, the story and the relationships. And just when you thought you knew where they were going, she does this incredibly brave thing."



Tim Robbins: "There are no rich people on death row"

plified with apt conviction that there was no great debate on whether the state should be killing innocents.

Eventually the money came from English backers — Polygram and Working Title — and Robbins made the film he and Sister Prejean wanted. It features a harrowing murder, parental anger of stunning vehemence, and a bitter, racist, profoundly unlikable death-row inmate. Box office returns have outstripped forecasts, but many Americans who have seen the film have emerged so moved by its portrayals of murder victims' families that they are unsure on which side of the death penalty fence Robbins stands. They need be in no doubt. "It's a poor person's punishment," he says. "There are no rich people on death row. It's as simple as that. If you are convicted of murder and don't have a good enough lawyer, you will wind up on death row. We've seen in the past few years what kind of justice money can buy. I can't get behind a system that punishes the poor in a different way than it punishes the rich."

Furthermore, he argues, capital punishment is racist and too expensive in its application. "Most people on death row are there for killing a white person but when nobodies get killed they don't push for the death penalty." He cites recent research suggesting that it costs twice as much to execute a man than to imprison him for life. For good measure, he congratulates Britain's Parliament on refusing to put the death penalty to a referendum. "You have leaders in your country," he declares. "They know what it costs a society, financially and morally, to cross the line and allow killing in its own name."

One of the few tense moments in Monday night's Oscar ceremony came as Susan Sarandon took the podium to accept her Best Actress award for playing Sister Prejean. It was not the prospect of tears that worried her audience, but of a political harangue. Sarandon and Robbins had effectively been barred from participating in Oscar night since an impromptu diatribe in 1992 on behalf of Haitian inmates.

In the event she did not even mention the death penalty, appealing instead simply for "a non-violent way to end violence". Even in the backstage press pen she spoke mainly of the joys of motherhood: known for her efforts not to let work distance her from her family, she has no films planned until her partner Robbins finishes filming a comedy this autumn. For his part, table hockey and virtual basketball are installed in his production offices so that Eva (11), Jack Henry (seven) and Miles (four) feel welcome.

GILES WHITTILL

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

### LONDON

#### Vaudeville Theatre

May 2

● JULIAN SLADE'S musical *Salad Days* is returning to the Vaudeville, where it ran for more than 2,000 performances in the mid-1980s, in a new production directed by Sherrin and featuring the comedy team of Kit and the Widow. This simple, charming story of young love and a missing piano features songs such as *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*. It's *Easy to Sing and We're Looking for a Piano*. Club members can attend a discussion at the Theatre Museum with Slade and Sherrin, before seeing the evening performance. Tickets are £23.50 (the normal price for the show alone is £29). Tel 0171-330 9987, Mon to Sat (10am-6pm).

#### Lyric Theatre

April 11

● CLUB members can meet choreographer Dein Perry and members of his cast after the evening performance of the hit dance show *Tap Dogs*. Tickets £17.50 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-494 5580.

#### Playhouse Theatre

April 21

● PLAYWRIGHT Michael Coney invites Theatre Club members to a rehearsal reading and discussion of his latest comedy, *Cash on Delivery*. Tickets £5. Tel 0171-839 4401.

#### OLDHAM

##### Coliseum Theatre

April 19-May 11

● TICKETS half-price (normally £8 to £12) for all perfor-

### THE TIMES

## THEATRE CLUB

manages except matinees of *Lone on the Dole*. Tel 0161-624 2829.

#### POOLE

##### Arts Centre

April 15

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50) to Michael Bogdanov's adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales*, starring Brian Glover and Brian Cant. Tel 01202 685222.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH

##### Little Theatre

April 16-18

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7) for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Tel 01642 815181.

#### WORCESTER

##### Swan Theatre

April 8

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50) to Neil Dunn's comedy, *Steaming*. Tel 01905 27322.

#### GLENROTHES

##### Rothes Halls

April 11

● TICKETS £5 to £8.50 (normally £7 to £11.50) to see the harpists, singers and dancers of the Belfast Harp Orchestra. Tel 01592 611101.

## HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL. Ring 01206 791737 with credit card details. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 0673. TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.



## CHOICE 1

**John Hannah stars in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion, Miss Julie**

VENUE: Tonight at the Young Vic

## CHOICE 2

**Final week in Plymouth for F. Murray Abraham in the new Tolstoy**

VENUE: Tonight at the Theatre Royal

## THE TIMES ARTS

## THEATRE 1

**Stephen Sondheim loses his wit in his latest musical Passion, now arrived in the West End**

## THEATRE 2

**Edward Albee's early play, A Delicate Balance, makes a welcome comeback in Nottingham**

## Soppy Sondheim loses the plot

## Passion Queen's

Would you believe it if one of the celebrities currently being pursued by an obsessive man were to fall deeply in love with her stalker? Or if Michael Douglas had lifted Glenn Close from the bath at the end of *Fatal Attraction*, gently removed her knife and given her a big, dotting kiss? If the answer to either question is no, you are likely to share my difficulties with Stephen Sondheim's latest musical, which is a fascinatingly odd piece to find coming from the pen that gave us *Company* and *A Little Night Music*.

As their current London revivals emphasise, both these shows are shrewd, suspicious and pretty cynical where love is concerned. But the film on which *Passion* is based, Sola's *Passione d'Amore*, has done something peculiar to the great sceptic's wit. For in its dark, brooding way, it is sentimental and pretty silly. Sondheim ends by affirming that, in his words, "the force of someone's feeling for you can crack you right open" when he has spent most of the evening proving exactly the opposite.

Michael Ball's Giorgio is an army captain, separated from Helen Hobson's Clara, the mistress he adores, by a posting to the Italian sticks. No sooner has he set down in the mess than there is an animal scream from the stairs, and down they creep a yellowish, squinting figure, in Maria Friedman's performance a chilling blend of Mrs Rochester and Mr Magoo. She is the colonel's cousin, Fosca, whom a sad marriage has evidently afflicted with one of those nameless 19th-century



Eternal triangle: Helen Hobson as Clara, Maria Friedman as Fosca and Michael Ball as the hapless Giorgio

illments that allow her to faint at will, take regularly to her deathbed and manipulate others pretty unstopably. Before long this pushy hypochondriac has browbeaten poor Giorgio into dumping the prettily trilling if admitted rather than any other figure, in that all. He renounces his very sensible objection to her passion, which is that "love's not a constant demand, it's tender and slow and must grow", and concludes, with Sondheim's obvious approval,

"that love within reason isn't love" and that it "can be sudden surrender, not tender, not slow". He is now enraptured with Fosca. He has been wooed by force and asks us to believe he loves by choice. It might be easier to credit this transition if Fosca were more magnetic and desirable or if Giorgio's sexuality had a weird, masochistic side. But Friedman's very strength, her refusal to glamorise the lady spider, only exacerbates the problem, as does Ball's good-

natured but bland performance as the fly. In the end, Sondheim's only credible defence is the old one: you can get away with an awful lot of pernicious nonsense if you set it to music and let the music soar.

For the paradox is that Sondheim's music does melodiously swoop and enjoyably soar. Although his score has its angry, troubled, minor-key moments, it is one of the most upbeat he has composed. And although Giorgio's messmates

spend too much time moaning about the Italian outbreak against a background of drapes and towering panes smeared with congealed paint, James Lapine's book undeniably grips. Yet what next — a musical version of Stephen King's *Misery* in which the trapped novelist falls for his fanatical captor on the grounds that she loves him enough to chop off his leg?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Kith and break up

**A Delicate Balance**  
Playhouse, Nottingham

and a drill sergeant, maintains the family's balance — at a price. Her frequent drunk sister Claire (Marty Crickshank) lives with them, and they are awaiting daughter Julia's return home from her fourth failed marriage. Without warning, their two oldest friends arrive, like shell-shocked survivors from an undeclared war, frightened out of their house by a nameless terror — the solitude of the human condition, perhaps, in America's suave, luxurious suburbs. And Harry and Edna have come not for temporary comfort: they want to exercise the rights of close friendship and move in. When the spoilt daughter (Marion Bailey, vivid in a tricky role) discovers that they are occupying her bedroom,

she expresses the conflict in terms of "I want" and "They want". This is the crux of the situation from which Albee extracts, with admirable care of situation, wit and surprise, such awkwardly substantial questions as where bounds should be drawn between kin and kith, and where these particular families can draw them. Tom Cairns directs the cast of six on a set of his own design, where pieces of elegantly comfortable furniture are placed beneath a high, white and bare, curved wall. This may have contributed to the difficult acoustics: from Row M, I was straining to avoid missing crucial words in speeches where apparently casual observations abruptly turn into harsh irony or rage.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

places, including Gave Bruback's "one of the greatest jazz pianists I have ever heard". Judge for yourself tonight. St George's, Brandon Hill (0171-323 0259). From Then Sun, London. South Bank (0171-920 4242). Apr 3. Southbank, Concordia Club (01709-613 930). Apr 4, Farnham, Maidings (01252-726 234).

**MANCHESTER.** Day Hermett directs Michael's adaptation of *Tales of the D'Urbervilles*, with Eli Garmet as the heroine lacking by an ennobling modern world. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9933). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, Sun, mat. Sat, Apr 1. May 4.

**ALSO IN MANCHESTER.** Keri Nagata leads the Hallé Orchestra for a programme of Haydn's Symphony No. 1, Brahms's Double Concerto for Violin and Cello and Schostakovich's Polka of Melancholy. Repeated tomorrow in Haydn's.

**PRESTON.** St. James's, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm.

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## Tim Waterstone on the broad scope and high drama of a cultural chameleon's encounter with Dark Age Britain

One of the problems with reviewing a Melvyn Bragg novel is how to keep an open mind. We see him on our television screens engaging with writers as diverse as Martin Amis, Dame Barbara Cartland, Edward Albee and Tom Sharpe, so it is difficult not to build up expectations about the kind of fiction which might emerge from this cultural chameleon.

He is perhaps particularly vulnerable when his novels — most recently *A Time To Dance* and *Crystal Rooms* — have a contemporary theme. The voice is not experimental enough to save Bragg from that school of criticism which does no more than complain that he has neither the surreal comic qualities of, say, Thomas Pynchon nor the bizarre elegance of, say, Muriel Spark. Why should he be expected to?

In *Credo* he has returned to the form of the historical novel with which he had a notable success nine years ago in *The Maid of*

# A romance of miracles and saints

CREDO  
By Melvyn Bragg  
Seipre, £16.99

*Buttermere*. What emerges is a gripping saga of great passion, driven by prose of furious energy.

*Credo* is set in the final decades of the 7th century, when the warrior code of the Dark Ages was in confused conflict with the civilising influences of the early Church. The narrative centres on the semi-mythical figure of Bega, a young Irish princess who has been blessed with a fragment of the True Cross. She falls in love with the man who has given her knowledge — her tutor Padric, prince of the British kingdom of Rheged. They are banished to Britain by her father after the

murder of a rapist nobleman who was to be her husband.

There follows a lifelong struggle between Bega's vocation as a bride of Christ, and her passion for Padric. Bega's journey of spiritual uncertainty is at the core of the book, as she is charged to "live for the faith" — despite her naturally wilful inclination to die for it.

Striving to distinguish God's will from her own, she is persuaded by Saint Cuthbert to renounce Padric and dedicate her life to God; she enters the Abbey of Whitby under the tutelage of Abbess Hilda, then founds a nunnery on the western coast.

Padric, still longing for marriage to Bega, finds his life absorbed in the struggle to free Rheged from its Northumbrian overlords. Bragg draws for us a Britain locked in bloody conflict



Bragg: elemental sensibility

between the Celtic and Roman factions of the Church, a land shadowed by years of war, plague and famine. Bega and Padric work out their lives in agonising separation; finally, with Padric on his deathbed, they are movingly reunited.

The emotional pacing of the love story is well sustained against a large canvas of events and characters, some fictional, some drawn from historical accounts. Bragg seems wholly comfortable with the sweep of the period, in his own words an age "of saints, scholars, miracles, abbey, gospels, crosses and the survival of the British".

The physical privations and brutish militarism of the time are robustly portrayed, and the social and religious framework feels authentic in its details. Bragg lists the breadth of his reading, and emphasises that his controlling text has been the Venerable Bede's *A History of the English Church and People*.

Of course, the dead hand of history can overwhelm fiction of this kind but what is impressive and moving in *Credo* is the texture

of the world that Bragg evokes. Known for his love of the Romanics, it seems that he has found in the Dark Ages another period when landscape and inner life merged into one another. He succeeds in creating a world dominated by the elements, where the characters' spiritual anxieties find constant correspondence in the physical world around them. Bega suffers "days like cliffs", her father's anger is a "storm of blood in his brain", and the image of battle seems to seep into every aspect of the characters' lives.

Perhaps as a consequence of this elemental sensibility, the writing is sometimes overloaded with sensations and occasionally knotted with epithets to the point of obscurity. This is a very long novel, and with the

prevailing fashion for pared-down prose, the headlong rush and occasional clumsiness of Bragg's writing will not be to everyone's taste. I was puzzled too by the omission of Caedmon, the first named English poet, who lived at Whitby under St Hilda; it is surely too good an opportunity to miss out the father of English poetry.

But these are minor quibbles against what is undoubtedly a sustained, impassioned and uplifting work of popular historical fiction. There is a far-reaching imagination at work here, and many of the sequences have a thrilling power, ranging from the battles and sea voyages to the more intimate scenes of love and visions. He should achieve a wide audience, reawakening interest in this most dramatic but these days little considered period in our nation's history.

Tim Waterstone's third novel, *A Passage of Lives*, will be published in August by Hodder Headline.

## Creating language at a stroke

Jean Aitchison

GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE

By Robin Dunbar  
Faber, £15.99

To be groomed by a monkey is to experience primordial emotions... the gradual surrender to another's avid fingers sliding expertly across bare skin... You begin to relax into the sheer intensity of the business. These words from the beginning of Robin Dunbar's book lead one to wonder how professors of psychology at the University of Liverpool spend their spare time.

But it soon becomes clear that this book is an attempt to pad out a smallish, interesting theory on the relationship between primate grooming and speech into a whole popularising book on the beginnings of language.

Until recently, language origin was a disreputable, even forbidden subject among serious scholars. It was banned by the Linguistic Society of Paris in 1866, and in 1874 the linguist William Dwight Whitney commented: "The greater part of what is said and written upon it is mere windy talk." But this has all changed. Reportedly, over a dozen books on the topic are due out this year, and Dunbar's is one of the first.

His book centres on the grooming-gossip theory — that friendly chat is a replacement activity for the manual grooming of other primates. This idea is not new. The image of stroking with words occurs in Shakespeare, who makes Caliban in *The Tempest* complain: "When thou comest first, thou strok'st me, and mad'st much of me" and the notion of chatter as "grooming talk" was popularised by Desmond Morris in his book *The Naked Ape* (1967). But Dunbar attempts to account for the grooming-gossip link.

His theory is based crucially on group size. Human societies, he argues, "contain buried within them a natural grouping of around 150 people".

This, he suggests, is "the number of people you would not feel embarrassed about joining uninvited for a drink if you happened to bump into them in a bar". It's roughly the number of living descendants an ancestral couple might have produced in hunter-gatherer societies.

It's also the number typically found in the villages of the earliest farmers, and is claimed to be the ideal maximum size for a church congregation or a fighting unit. This 150 is too many for mutual grooming. Talking as a replacement is not so time-consuming, and allows more than one person to be "groomed" at the same time.

As others have pointed out, and as Dunbar himself admits, it is "very easy to play the numerologist and find numbers to fit whatever size your theory requires". So he is not necessarily right in his numbers game. But he has made perhaps the first serious attempt to link the observation that language is a substitute for grooming with a possible explanation for why this came about. This then, is the core of the book, which is fleshed out with discussions and diagrams showing the relationship between brain size, group size and grooming time.

Yet a basic problem is that increased brain size in humans correlates not only with group size, but also with other variables, such as an improved diet, especially meat-eating, and also with an ability to deceive, known as



Language may have replaced manual grooming: *The Lesson in the Use of the Fan* (detail), Abraham Solomon (1824-62)

the Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis. Successful deception requires a "theory of mind", an ability to imagine the viewpoint of others.

At one time the Machiavellian intelligence supporters were at loggerheads with the gossip-grooming proponents. But Dunbar has now accepted that the two ideas are complementary, not contradictory, since both involve an increase in sophisticated social manipulation.

Dunbar brings in further findings to back up his claims: we are naked apes, and lack

the hair which makes extensive manual grooming useful. He adopts the theory (not his own) that a move to less heavily forested woodlands exposed proto-humans to extensive heat from the sun. An animal which walks upright and is naked will keep cool better, with hair retained above all on the head, the surface mainly exposed to the sun at midday.

This book then provides a useful overview of some possible language triggers. But when it comes to language itself, the author is clearly

floundering, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursion into the reconstruction of early languages.

In all, fewer than a dozen linguistics writers are mentioned, not all of them correctly spelt, and the bibliographical notes on animals which have been taught a language

system are attached to the wrong chapter.

Overall, the author has surrounded a kernel of interesting speculation with a wrapping of airy persiflage, some of it misleading. But he has shown that gossip about gossip is more than "mere windy talk".

Jean Aitchison is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University; her book *The Seeds of Speech: Language, Origin and Evolution* will be published in April by Cambridge University Press

## Secret love and a true heroine

John Grigg

FRANCES, COUNTESS  
LLOYD GEORGE  
More than a Mistress  
By Ruth Longford  
Graceland, £15.99

From 1913 until the death of his first wife, Margaret, in 1941, David Lloyd George was in effect a bigamist. In the former year he pledged himself secretly to Frances Stevenson, a woman young enough to be his daughter. Indeed, part of her appeal to him was that she had known his eldest daughter, Mair, and reminded him of her in certain ways. (Mair's death in 1907 was the worst bereavement he ever suffered.)

His love for Frances was far more than the infatuation of a middle-aged man for an attractive young woman. She also made herself indispensable to him in his work. Well educated, with a classics degree from Royal Holloway College, she also mastered shorthand and typing. Having a French-Italian mother, she spoke excellent French, and so was able to interpret and translate for Lloyd George. With these attainments she became an extremely competent private secretary, and history owes her a great debt for preserving Lloyd George's papers. Before she came into his life he hardly bothered to open most of the letters he received, and kept very few.

While making her his clandestine "wife", he explained that there could be no question of ending his marriage to Margaret, because divorce would destroy him as a politician. In truth he never wanted to be divorced from Margaret, who continued to be his equal partner in a sense that Frances never was. Nevertheless two years after Margaret's death he made an "honest woman" of Frances, despite the fury of some members of his family; and by accepting an earldom just before his own death in 1945 he finally made her a countess.

She was genuinely devoted to him and for three decades had to put up with a position that was embarrassing and equivocal. In middle life she had a serious love affair with another man, Colonel T. F. Tweed, who was chief organiser of the Liberal Party when Lloyd George was its leader. During this time (in October 1928) she gave birth to a daughter, Jennifer, of whom Lloyd George and Tweed each believed himself to be the father.

Either may have been right: in the absence of scientific evidence the matter can never be conclusively resolved. But Lloyd George treated Jennifer as his own flesh and blood;

and Tweed, when he died in 1940, left her £500, as well as £2,000 to Frances.

Ruth Longford is Jennifer's eldest child. She was 15 when her grandmother died in 1972, so she writes with the benefit of personal knowledge. Her book throws new light on a fascinating story, and has the merit — not always found when biography is written by close relations — of being critical as well as laudatory.

On the debit side, the narrative is at times rather confused, and much that ought to be explained is taken for granted. Familiarity with Lloyd George's career is more or less assumed, and Frances's background is sketchily described, as is Tweed's. We do learn, however, that he was a best-selling novelist, and passages most revealing of Lloyd George and Frances (in fictional guise) are quoted from one of his novels, *Rinehard* (1933).

The strangest aspect of the book concerns Frances's attitude to Jennifer. Though she seems to have yearned for a child, she was hardly the warmest of mothers, pretending even to Jennifer that she was the child of missionaries killed in China, whom she (Frances) had adopted.

This myth was maintained to protect not only Lloyd George's reputation, but also evidently her own, since in the autobiography that she wrote long after Lloyd George's death she proposed to repeat it, until advised by Jennifer either to tell the truth or not mention her at all.

As a result Jennifer is not mentioned in her mother's autobiography, though it contains an admission that Frances was Lloyd George's mistress. When, late in her life, she was asked on television if she minded never having had children, she replied: "Lloyd George was my child".

Anyone who knows Jennifer Longford can only marvel at the balance and serenity of her character. She is the true heroine of her daughter's book.

Here is a drowned man, "white and bloated as soggy bread". Here are rich, country-club girls, "their hard, smooth bodies like car fenders". Here is the realm of the perfect image, so simple and precise that it is almost possible to believe it always existed. These two collections of short stories provide landscapes wherein such images may be set like follies; is there any more to it than that?

All literary lineages are complex, and it is facile to attempt to trace a hard and fast ancestry. But Hemingway once claimed that "all modern American literature" is out of Huck Finn; it could be argued that the modern American story is descended directly from Hemingway, with Stephen Crane and Sherwood Anderson — among others — as cousins.

Hemingway tried to... put down what really happened in action: what the actual things were which produced the emotion that you experienced... And so Ernest Hemingway began Raymond Carver, whose tales, hinging on a moment of perception that cuts through the world's noise, have influenced many of the present generation of American story-writers.

## No ten dollar words

Erica Wagner

THE POINT

By Charles D'Ambrosio

Flamingo, £9.99

A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD

By Kevin Canty

Viking, £13.50

His shadow is clearly visible on the stories of both D'Ambrosio and Canty — particularly in those of the former. In *Lyricism* Potter tackles Joan for not much reason and pulls her down in the grass; in *American Bullfrog*, Freddie and Reginald collide: "this, in its own way, was a kind of discussion we were having, a debate". D'Ambrosio's stories — set in a Pacific North West where Boeing have laid off 60,000 workers — do not seek to explain confusion but reflect it.

But this makes misjudgment treacherous: the final image of *The Point* has a writing-school neatness that a more delicate, less abrasive tale, such as *Jacinta*, avoids.

But it is Canty who most effectively deploys Hemingway's tactic, particularly in *Pretty Judy*, about a boy's half-unwilling and yet inexorable liaison with a mentally handicapped girl. This tale makes the reader's emotions of fascination and disgust a mirror of the boy's compulsion. *Dogs* risks the awkward second-person, but its compression allows it to escape contrivance, and makes immediate the beautiful bodies of dogs killed for no reason other than "moving to new apt."

In Canty's final, title story, Candy Collins, feeling disjoined from life by her husband's death, "liked herself best when she was almost nothing". In a certain sense all the characters in these collections are strangers in the world, retreating from its randomness into the tiny, almost meaningless acts over which they have some control. In doing so, they reveal a kinship with an older literary line than might first have appeared: like Melville's Bartleby, they simply prefer not to.

Surviving letters show that Stalin remained on kindly but distant terms with his mother in Georgia. He was indifferent to everyone else. Medical records reveal that Nadezhda, his second wife, committed suicide just before she was due for a cancer operation: perhaps she did not kill herself solely to be rid of him, as usually maintained.

## After all, he loved his mother

David Pryce-Jones

STALIN

By Edward Radzinsky

Hodder & Stoughton, £25

LIFE AND TERROR IN STALIN'S RUSSIA

By Robert W. Thurston

Yale, £18.50



Stalin: left no confession

One of Radzinsky's new documents is the diary of Maria Svanidze, a woman who was both the wife of Stalin's former brother-in-law and a close friend of Nadezhda's. Evidently and rightly, she anticipated arrest and wrote her diary to serve as testimony in her favour, but still it catches the various moods in the inner circle.

Quick to grasp the essentials of any argument, Stalin also had an outstanding memory. None of his colleagues and rivals trusted him, but they distrusted each other more. Exploiting every opening, Stalin was intimidating. Radzinsky sees him as engaged simultaneously by hot rage and cold calculation, a

master plotter sitting through the night in the Kremlin and marking death lists, but sane enough to seem mad but sane by totalitarian standards. Lust for power is the key.

Stalin is held to have panicked at the German invasion in 1941, and to have hidden himself away for days on end. Radzinsky has found the calendar of his engagements and the diary of an administrative assistant which establish that

Stalin was in his office for all but 48 hours of the initial period, with Politburo members and his generals. Rage was again the uppermost emotion, rage with his own mistaken assumption that Hitler would act logically.

Rage and calculation turned into outright paranoia after the war. Eastern and Central Europe were now his, he had the nuclear weapon, and he prepared for the apocalyptic triumph of communism. A month before he died, he was heard to declare: "If the imperialist gentlemen feel like going to war, there is no more suitable moment for us than this." Radzinsky interprets it literally.

Finally Radzinsky traced someone by the name of Peter Logachev, who had been on duty in the dacha at the moment of Stalin's death. From this man's story it seems to Radzinsky that Stalin's would-be successors deliberately denied him medical help, and possibly even made sure that he would die.

No Russian of any distinction has yet tried to argue in Stalin's favour, and it is left to

a few Western historians to claim that he was not so bad. Robert W. Thurston is an example. In his considered opinion, Stalin was often at a loss, not to say powerless, influenced by others and even by public opinion. In turn Russians fought hard in the Second World War because they admired him. State Prosecutor Andrei Vyshinsky, who shouted: "Shoot the mad dogs" at the accused, was truly concerned with fine points of judicial procedure.

NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account).

Revisionism of this sort, as of Nazism, proves only lack of imagination about life in a setting without any of the usual moral assumptions. Some unhappy Russians are so terrified of the future that they are willing to be duped about the past. But an American professor has no such excuse.



# The complexities of complicity

Gitta Sereny on the shared guilt for a nation's old wrongs

**O**f all the events in modern history, probably none has been more exhaustively written about than the Nazis' murder of the Jews. And here now, 51 years on, is another *cri de coeur*. Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is a young assistant professor of government and social studies at Harvard (where his father, Erich, who survived the Nazi camps, is a visiting lecturer in Jewish studies). *Hitler's Willing Executioners* retains many of the characteristics of the 1994 doctoral dissertation from which it originates. But he is clever and a talented researcher even if, in parts of this passionately angry book, the talent is ill-used.

He sets out to prove that what he calls "eliminationist" anti-Semitism dominated German public thinking from at least 1845. The general view in Germany for more than a century, he

HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS  
By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen  
Little, Brown, £20

writes, was of Jews as "corrosive" "malevolent" and "incompatible with Germans". This led to the conviction that they had to be "eliminated" — in those early years preferably by conversion to Christianity.

Quotations from newspapers or public personalities of the time are carefully selected to support this thesis. There is no attempt to present comparative views. He omits the fact, for example, that the emancipation movement in Germany during the 19th century was sufficiently strong and successful that great numbers of Jews chose Germany as their refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and were welcomed there.

By skimming over the liberalism of the Weimar Republic (where, incidentally a Jew, Jakob Riesser, was Vice-President of the Reichstag), he arrives at the conclusion that as the majority of Germany's Jews rejected the "benign" solution of baptism, this "eliminationist" anti-Semitism, deeply ingrained in the German personality, inevitably led to extermination.

Part II of the book deals with the German perpetrators: in occupied Eastern Europe, in the concentration camps, labour camps, and on the "death marches" at the end of the war. Only the last part here is new, his descriptions starkly telling. Much of the rest of the material was derived from the same source as Christopher Browning's instant classic *Ordinary Men* (1992) with which he followed up a shocking collection of letters and statements in *Those Who Were With Us* by the German writers Klee, Dressen and Riess.



"Germans! Defend yourselves! Don't shop with Jews!" Photographing those who break a boycott of Jewish stores in Berlin, 1938: the pictures would later be publicly displayed

Nonetheless, it is of value for Goldhagen to emphasise once more, as he does, that the murder of the Jews was not limited to the gas chambers in occupied Poland and that an enormous number of "ordinary" Germans — not the SS, but young soldiers, and policemen trained for traffic control — enthusiastically murdered Jews (by shootings) in Eastern Europe.

**B**ut in his need to prove that virtually all Germans individually, uniquely monstrous he yet again fails to provide the context essential to real understanding. He barely mentions the age-old violent anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, the many thousands of virulently anti-Semitic auxiliaries the Germans recruited there, all of whom if anything outdid them in brutality and essentially enabled them to carry out the genocide. His manifest purpose to evaluate German anti-Semitism in isolation from the surrounding world is historically indefensible.

Throughout the book and the 126 pages of largely editorialising notes the author determinedly chooses the facts to suit his purpose. Could one imagine, he writes, that the Danes or Italians could have brutalised Jewish men, women and children? We don't have to imagine, for we know — as of course he did too before he asked his disingenuous question — that of all European

nations, these are precisely the two who protected their Jews.

In an imaginative paragraph — one can only say a fantasy — he paints a picture of German killers walking through the woods next to children on the way to the killing ground. With what emotions, he asks, did these men gaze, say, at an eight or twelve-year-old girl... a delicate little human being? As one reads this, one feels this is written by a man in an ivory tower who knows and understands nothing. "There were so many children; did they ever make you think of your children, of how you would feel in the position of their parents?" I asked Franz Stangl, Commandant of Treblinka. He looked astonished at my question. "No," he said after some thought. "I can't say I ever thought that way. You see... how can I explain... I rarely saw them as individuals... they were naked... running... driven with whips..."

The method of depersonalising nudity, and running *en masse*, planned by monster psychologists in Berlin, worked only too well. Far from noticing any delicate little girls, the Jews, once undressed, ceased to be human beings for these German killers, who, in their mass orgies, ceased being individuals.

Mr Goldhagen is too intent on proving his preconceived and far too simplistic explanation for the murder

of the Jews: that they were killed, not because of Hitler's manic ideology and his extraordinary ability to convince his people that bad was good; and not because the Germans were slaves to authority and, with few exceptions, devoid of civic courage. The Jews died, he says, over and over as if repetition could make it so, because the majority of 60 million Germans wanted them dead, knew about the murders and took whatever part they could in them.

Countless historians and thinkers have shown over the past 50 years that whatever the degree of anti-Semitism in Germany, such a totalistic notion is nonsense. But Goldhagen scorns all of them. Youthfully dispensing criticism and advice as to how they could and should do better, he disregards the fundamentals of social and political analysis. "Stop referring to them as Nazis," he cries, and one senses his agony. "They were Germans, Germans, Germans." Can one write a book such as this in this degree of pain?

Worst of all, his thesis shows that he has not yet understood the truth history has proved: that murderous bigotry is not ingrained in the character of any one nation but is part of the human condition. It is not only young Germans who, as did happen after 1945, needed to be retaught humanity, but all our children, white, black, brown and yellow, need to learn this now and for evermore.

## Fission reaction

Jasper Rees

PAGAN AND HER PARENTS  
By Michael Arditti  
Sindair-Stevenson, £12.99



Arditti: familial subversion

**M**ICHAEL ARDITTI'S second novel is about all sorts of things: parenthood, sexual choice, the ties of blood, religion, celebrity, prejudice, media intrusion, child abuse, the law.

Big topics all, they need a big container, and get one. The suspicion lingers that there is another thing this book is about: about 100 pages too long. The coda alone is worth 50 pages. Even by Dickensian standards, in which the swings and roundabouts of the narrative take their time to come to a standstill, that's a long goodbye.

Pagan is a six-year-old girl with no known father, a recently dead mother, a homosexual guardian (our narrator Leo) and two grandparents who have never met her. They nonetheless harbour plans to secure custody, although their own daughter, Candida, has extracted a pledge from Leo never to contact them.

It turns out that Candida always resented her adoption, and spent her life nakedly subverting their petty bourgeois values (very occasionally she would also do it fully clothed). But Leo is benign, sociable, conciliatory, a well-liked television chat show host to boot, and probably too good to be true. Whatever, in his decency he can't see the harm in their request.

The saga that ensues comes with a health warning for all parents and guardians prone to panic attacks and night sweats. Pagan is separated from her one true, if not biological, parent by a Kafkaesque minefield of dread affidavits and furtive intolerance, as the frostiness between the rival carers turns into cold war, then goes nuclear as ritual allegations of child abuse are traded. And although Leo casts the grand parents' suburban-Christian morality as a species of Gothic villainy, it's the homosexual to whom the mud sticks.

This is a manifesto for minorities, and true to the genre it sometimes makes exaggerated claims. Eager to prove that we can't all be able-bodied heteros, Arditti packs Pagan's world with characters subjected to discrimination because of what they do — or can't do — with their bodies.

Leo's father is ga-ga: Candida's bitter brother is in a wheelchair; Candida herself, after a lifetime of hectic sex, is claimed by motor neurone disease. And, as if our cup runneth not over, Pagan's father turns out to be a transsexual.

ARDITTI'S technical ambition is to deliver a narrative which is addressed to a dead character without coming over all soppy. Initially, in order to give us a flavour of the absent mother, there is a flashback seamlessly woven into every page. Some are a tad overripe ("You were as dismissive of the Reformation as the Pre-Raphaelites were of the Renaissance"). But as the narrative breaks into a gallop, Leo's penchant for reminiscence is soon a thing of the past.

Let's ration ourselves to one topographical nippick, advising the author never to show his face in West Acton, where he has chosen to relocate Wormwood Scrubs.

East Acton, meanwhile, can breathe a sigh of relief, and so can everyone by the end of the novel, whose shining virtue is its undemonstrative moral cleanliness. It should be required reading wherever the nuclear family is small-mindedly lauded as the one true ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakable.

## And they lived unhappily ever after

Antonia Fraser  
THE STUART PRINCESSES  
By Alison Plowden  
Alan Sutton, £17.99



Charles, James and Mary, three of Charles I's children

**I**n order to make up for the disappointment of not being queen, "she wished to reign in the hearts of all good people by the charm of her person and the real beauty of her soul". The sentiments, which have an oddly contemporary ring, were in fact those of a 17th-century princess, Henrietta Anne, sister of Charles II, better known under her pet name, Minette.

The disappointment which Minette suffered was to be slighted by her first cousin, Louis XIV, as being too young, too thin and too unimportant. In consequence she was married off to his brother, "Monseigneur Philippe Duc d'Orleans, and as 'Madame' the first lady of the French court after the Queen, did indeed reign in a number of French hearts.

Nevertheless, Minette's first love and loyalty was to her brother, King Charles across the water. Minette retained a touching sense of her own destiny as an English princess. It was faithful and discreet Minette whom King Louis and King Charles used as the conduit for their clandestine negotiations which resulted in the Secret Treaty of Dover of 1670. Her premature death shortly afterwards robbed

Charles II not only of a trusted emissary but also of "my dearest sister": a woman who loved him totally and unselfishly.

Minette was by no means the exception in the Stuart dynasty in preferring her own family's interests to those of her adopted country. *The Stuart Princesses* reveals that Minette was only the most charming example of an expatriate loyalist.

The princesses in question range from Elizabeth, daughter of James I, born in 1596, to Anne, daughter of James II, who reigned from 1702 to 1714. Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles I, was married off to William of Orange when she was nine and he 15. After the marriage, the young pair were officially "bedded" — which meant that, since Mary was too young for real consummation to take place, their bare legs had to be seen to touch. At one point the Princess's night-

gown had to be slit up the side with a pair of shears in order to satisfy the observers, English and Dutch.

**A**fter this nervous start, Mary as Princess of Orange continued to regard her position as an English princess as infinitely superior to that of a princess of Orange. Even when her father's fortunes sank lower and lower during the Civil War, Mary still wished the Dutch to give him total support. William of Orange died young, Mary's only child — the future William III — was born after his death when she

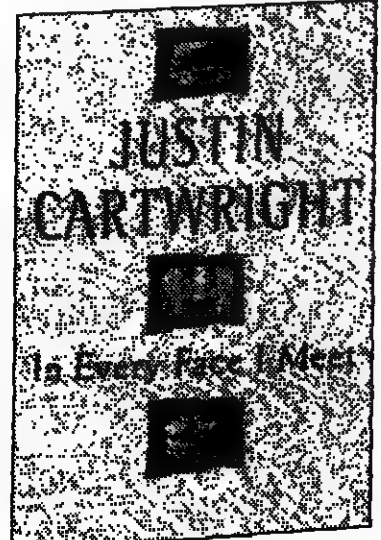
was just 19. Typically, Mary wanted the boy to be named Charles, but the Dowager Princess of Orange insisted that it was an unlucky name, and so William it was.

In the course of time this young William of Orange was married to his first cousin, another Stuart princess named Mary, daughter of the future James II. Mary wept bitter tears when she was condemned — as she saw it — to leave her beloved country and friends for Holland. In vain Charles II's kindly wife, Catherine of Braganza, tried to console her, pointing out that when she made her own

bridal journey from Portugal she had never even seen her future bridegroom. "But madam," replied Mary unanswerably, "you came into England; but I am going out of England." Little did Mary know that times revolutions would bring Mary to occupy, jointly with William, her father's English throne.

In general, Plowden deploys her extensive knowledge of Tudor and Stuart times to provide a series of skilfully written studies for those who like to read historical stories featuring real princesses rather than fairy tales. But it has to be said that most of the stories are sad ones. Sadder of all is perhaps the fate of Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, at the age of 15.

Yet few of the arranged royal marriages proved happy. However, one did turn into a love match: that was the union of James II's daughter Elizabeth and Frederick, the Elector Palatine. This Elizabeth also bore an enormous family, most of whom survived. It is perhaps a good augury to reflect that the present Queen descends from this robust Elizabeth, rather than her more fragile cousins.



Justin Cartwright  
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## Britain's travellers are upwardly mobile

THE WAY Britain takes a holiday is undergoing one of its periodic upheavals. The first signs appeared a few months ago when the number of customers booking a foreign package holiday fell sharply. Many in the industry assumed this would be temporary, something that could be cured by cutting the number of holidays offered.

I refused to believe that the two-week family package had had its day. But it is now clear that the wealthy, independent and more demanding are once again setting a trend that will inevitably trickle down the social pyramid.

In the short-term, the number of people taking foreign package holidays will continue to fall, particularly at the bottom end of the market. Those who do travel abroad, however, will demand ever higher standards, rather than lower prices. They will refuse to be cajoled into early booking but will follow the continental pattern of deciding at the last moment where to go. They will travel further and stay for shorter periods while spending just as much as, if not more than, they did before.

Figures compiled by the British travel trade show that bookings for European package holidays are 20 per cent lower than they were this time last year. And, the experts say, by the end of the summer only eight million people will have taken a package holiday this year, down two million from 1995.

However, while the Mediterranean has slumped, there has been a rise in expensive long-haul holidays. In the use of business class and in expensive villas, castles and hotels. The statistics were brought to life for me last weekend.

During the outward journey to St Malo and the return from Caen, the Brittany Ferries ship was comfortably half full with couples who preferred to eat in the ship's best, and expensive, restaurant. Most were staying for two nights in chateaux rather than in cheap hotels or on campsites. On the car decks, Range Rovers were more in evidence than Ford Fiestas.

On the way back the head of a small tour operator said: "The only people travelling now are the rich. They are unaffected by the franc fort or the high prices in France. They are now able to relax in towns and resorts that are no longer dominated by pack-



The Travel Business HARVEY ELLIOTT



A NEW monthly column supplied the worldwide security and detection agency.

### HIGH RISK

ONLY essential travel is recommended in Guatemala. In the capital, Guatemala City, there are some four kidnappings and ten car thefts a day, despite a heavy troop presence. The situation may improve in future, however, as a temporary ceasefire has been announced by the country's three major guerrilla groups.

Columbia is also considered a high-risk area, with the National Liberation Army (ELN) holding hostage a Briton, a Dane and a German, all reportedly alive and well. The rural-based ELN periodically kidnaps foreign employees of large corporations and demands sizeable ransoms. Parcel bombs have been sent to two foreign missions recently. Internal travel by air is advised. Visitors travelling by road should take advice from the Embassy and local authorities beforehand.

In Iraq, tension has been increased by accusations from the US and elsewhere that Iran is supporting the suicide bombers in Israel. In Gaza, Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, is believed to have been responsible for three of the recent bombings. Travelers to Israel would be well advised to wait until after the elections on May 29, and to avoid public transport.

The risk to travellers in the Indian-ruled area of Kashmir is high, with increasing conflict between police and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), while two recent bombs in Lahore underline the dangers of travelling in Pakistan.

In Nigeria ethnic fighting continues and disease, especially meningitis, is a serious risk. The World Health Organisation also notes deadly contagious diseases in the Sahel region of Zaire. Travel in Rwanda is not recommended either, with Hutu rebels involved in recent shootings.

Mozambique is considered high risk following a riot by unemployed former soldiers there on March 19.

### EXTREME RISK

MILITANT groups pose a constant threat in Algeria, where non-essential travel is not advised. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) recently exploded a vehicle bomb in Berrouaghia, and there has been shooting in the Hassi Messaoud oil region and in Algiers.

Also dangerous is Sri Lanka, with a continuing threat from the Tamil Tigers. 300 of whom amongst them have been shooting in the absence of proper government or police, more are likely.

● Pinkertons 01420 544024

## Football fever hits tour firms

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

FOOTBALL fans planning to stay at home to watch Euro 96 — the European championship to be played at grounds across England in June — were last night blamed by tour operators for triggering a new holiday price war.

Those with no interest in soccer, however, could benefit by taking advantage of half-price packages available throughout the tournament. Tens of thousands of early summer holidays, which tour operators had hoped to sell at the full brochure price, will now be on sale at discounts of up to 50 per cent.

The first tour operator to move was Cosmos, the fourth biggest, which still has 30,000 unsold holidays in June. "We were not prepared to be left with unsold holidays at the last moment," said Roger Corkhill, managing director. "When we looked at our position in June we decided to make the discounts available."

Nicol Josephides, of Sunvil Holidays, said: "There is no doubt that the forthcoming European championship has affected the lower end of the market and that creeps up through the entire spectrum. Although June is especially bad, the normal booking rhythm is just not there at all this year. The Mediterranean is between 23 and 24 per cent down on this time last year although many long-haul destinations are still selling well."

Cosmos has cut the price of its Summer Sun, Greece, Turkey and Florida brochures and has also discounted packages to more exotic destinations such as Mexico, China and the Caribbean.

A holiday for a family of four in the Salou Pacific Apartments on the Costa Dorada from June 18 — the day England play Holland at Wembley — will now cost £456 for 14 nights compared with the brochure price of £997. Other reductions are available at nearly 140 hotels and apartments in 27 destinations.

Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours, said: "June is a real problem but it would be disappointing to see a really big tour operator such as us not holding our nerves. There is almost certainly going to be discounting among smaller companies."

Tour operators generally have reduced the number of holidays on sale throughout the summer by about 15 per cent in the hope that the remaining eight million can be sold at or near full price.

"The question now is whether that is going to be enough," said Mr Corkhill. "Demand remains stagnant and there is no indication that things will get any better."

For the whole of the summer about five million holidays have been sold leaving some three million on agents' shelves. August has sold well and tour operators are confident that they will be able to sell all those available during the school holiday peak. But the doubts remain.

## France slips in caravan league

By STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN's caravan holiday-makers are avoiding France to take the high road to other European destinations this summer. Camping operators are slashing prices as sales to France continue to trail 30 per cent below the same period last year.

In 1995, traditional enclaves such as Brittany, the Dordogne and the Vendée dominated the list of top holiday spots for 40,000 families who booked their holiday abroad with The Caravan Club.

In total, 18 of the 20 most popular destinations were in France, with French caravan sites filling the top seven places. But bookings so far to 1996 show only one French site in the top five. Royan in Charente-Maritime, which has held on to the No. 1 slot last year.

A site in Holland has leapt into 2nd place, while other new favourites include Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy. The slump in demand for France reflects a fall of 30 per cent in all holidays to the

country this year. And people are travelling for shorter breaks, said Arlene Spicer, product manager for the Caravan Club's travel service.

"The annual two-to-three week holiday has become less popular. Members are taking shorter breaks, perhaps two or three times a year, to destinations other than France."

Two caravan sites in Ireland and two in Spain feature in the 1996 top ten, with two in Italy and one in Germany also making the top 20.

Top ten caravan sites so far for 1996:

1. Royan, Charente-Maritime, France
2. Rijnsburg, Holland
3. Co Kerry, Ireland
4. Costa Brava, Spain
5. Noya, northern Spain
6. Le Pas Oupon, Vendée, France
7. Co Wicklow, Ireland
8. Camping du Bohat, Brittany, France
9. Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, France
10. Atlantic Coast, France



Aung San Suu Kyi: champion of the democracy movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner

## Visitors urged to boycott Burma

TOURISTS were yesterday urged to boycott Burma in protest at the ruling military junta's abuse of human rights.

Labour's shadow foreign minister, Derek Fatchett, described the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which had designated 1996 as Visit Burma Year as "evil".

"The regime is clearly one of the worst in the world. The development of the tourist industry has been at a price to the local community which every decent person would regard as unacceptable. I would strongly urge tourists to think carefully before booking a holiday in Burma."

The Burma Action Group, which is pressing for the restoration of human rights in the country, launched a "Alternative Guide" to the region in which they claim that the main tourism developments are being carried out by up to two million "slave labourers", including children.

Thousands of ordinary people are being forcibly removed from their homes to clean up tourist sites or to make way for new developments, it claims.

Yvette Mahon, co-ordinator of the group said: "By visiting Burma now people are lending legitimacy to a cruel and greedy military dictatorship."

The 38 British tour operators who organise visits to Burma were also urged to drop it from their brochures, or at least to explain to potential customers what was happening in the country at another meeting held yesterday by Tourism Concern.

But most are convinced they should not become involved in politics," said Alan Flood, secretary general of the Federation of Tour Operators. "Members of the public must make up their own minds where they want to go."

About 2,000 Britons visited Burma last year out of a total of 95,600 foreign tourists.

### SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Weekend

Keep the children happy over Easter with a weekend away. Jill Crawshaw on the new ferry to Dieppe, plus getting the best out of Normandy.

Robin Neillands in South Africa. Introducing Britain's Legoland. How to spoil the Caribbean

## Kenya spreads its attractions

By TONY DAVE

A NEW plan to encourage tourist development to spread throughout Kenya beyond the most popular national parks and short strips of coastline was announced yesterday.

David Western, director of Kenya Wildlife Service, told a meeting in London that "spreading the load" is vital if the country's landscape and animal life are to survive the continuing growth in tourism.

Travel companies are to be encouraged to be more imaginative in the choice of tours they offer while the service is negotiating with private landowners in lesser-known areas to persuade them to provide new lodges and tented camps for visitors.

Around 680,000 tourists went to Kenya last year, with four out of five going to see the wildlife, and as the figures increase officials warn that the principal national parks can comfortably handle only 750,000 visitors a year.

"The key word is diversity, whether tourists are interested in wildlife, landscape, culture or history," Dr Western said. Most tourists think of the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru as the obvious

national parks to visit on safari and want to see "the big five" animals (elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo and rhinoceros).

"But Kenya has far more to offer with 34 parks and reserves including six marine ones and they contain only 10 per cent of the country's total wildlife," Dr Western added.

"For example, the Central Highlands, with 1,000ft waterfalls, contains the bongo, a rare forest antelope, as well as giant forest hogs and a wealth of elephants. The tropical Kakamega Forest is home to many rare primates, butterflies and birds and Hell's Gate, only an hour from Nairobi, offers a vast geological amphitheatre and lush gorges."

The service acts as the custodian of all wildlife in the country, as well as managing the parks and reserves, and ploughs all the money raised from tourism back into conservation. Through a newly created tourism department, it also meets landowners and helps them to find the funds and form legal associations to build tented camps and ecotourist lodges.

### BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

#### FOLLOW THE QUEEN TO POLAND

Follow the Queen to Poland at the invitation of Euroview, which is organising nine-day tours this summer, including Krakow, the Tatra Mountains and Auschwitz for £439 a person, including coach and ferry travel, bed and breakfast and some meals. Details: 01362 698667.

#### EASTER CRUISES

Greek islands including Mykonos are available from £499 a person for a week from Seafarer. Departures on April 5. Details: 0171-234 0500.

#### HAWAII

For a week over Easter for £685 a person, including return scheduled flights and hotel accommodation, is available from Jetset. Details: 0990 555757.

#### THOMSON

still has Easter week skiing holidays available in France and Aus-

#### HOLIDAYS

trials from £329 a person, with flights from Gatwick on Easter Sunday. Details: 0171-707 9000.

#### POST-EASTER

savings in Kenya are available from Tropical Places with a fortnight at an all-inclusive beach club in a marine national park for £999 with flights from Gatwick on April 21 and 28. Details: 01342 825123.

#### SAVINGS

of more than £100 a person are available from Kuoni for hotel holidays in Grenada, with prices starting at £449 for a week, with flights from Gatwick on April 17 and 24. Details: 01306 742232.

SAVINGS of £200 a week on a luxury villa in Provence and £50 discounts on mid-July holidays are among the offers from Drive France. Details: 0181-395 8888.

#### THE HOTEL

Bristol in Paris offers 35 per cent off regular rates over Easter. Two nights' accommodation with dinner and drinks on one night costs £444 per person. 00331 53434300.

#### THE TURNBERRY HOTEL

in Ayrshire, Scotland, has an Easter Robert Burns package from £305 per person. This covers two nights' accommodation and dinner, along with a tour of Burns country. 01655 331000.

#### VISITORS

to the Chelsea Hotel in London's Knightsbridge at Easter can win a weekend for two to New York by buying a charity Easter egg (price £5). Room rates from £160 per night. Details: 0171-235 4377.

#### A TWO-NIGHT

Easter package at the Forte Village in Sardinia costs from £219

#### HOTELS

per person including a gala dinner, health and fitness facilities and a children's Easter egg hunt. Details: 01293 614040.

#### THE MUNICH PARK HILTON

in Germany is celebrating the birth of King Ludwig II with a two-night weekend package including visits to his castles and Oberammergau. Prices from £76.65 per person. Details: 0345 581555.

#### A FIVE-NIGHT

guided walk along the Cotswold Way, staying in country-house hotels, is offered by the Pride of Britain hotel group for £95 per person including breakfast and dinner. Details: 01264 736604.

#### HORSTED PLACE

in Sussex has special "charm days" offering beauty treatments, lunch and use of sports facilities for £55 per person. Details: 01825 750581.

#### LAUDA AIR

is providing two nights' free accommodation in Salzburg or two days' car rental. The deal is valid for full-fare passengers booking its daily Gatwick-Salzburg service. Details: 0800 767737.

#### BRITISH AIRWAYS

has introduced seat sale fares between UK provincial airports and Germany: Aberdeen or Belfast to Düsseldorf costs £159, Edinburgh-Frankfurt £179 and Glasgow-Munich £217. Details: 0345 222111.

#### LUPUS TRAVEL

is charging £439 for return Alitalia flights between London and Johannesburg via Rome. Details: 0171-306 3000.

#### BOOK A JERSEY EUROPEAN

business-class ticket before March 31 on selected domestic routes to Belfast or the

#### FLIGHTS

Channel Islands and the airline will provide a free economy-class ticket. Details: 01392 360777.

#### BRITISH MIDLAND

has launched Spring Saver fares on flights between East Midlands Airport and Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam or Edinburgh. All destinations cost £85 return, except £89 to Amsterdam. Details: 0345 554554.

#### BRITISH AIRWAYS

has introduced a £49 day-return Shopper fare between Bristol and Plymouth and Jersey Guernsey. Details: 0345 222111.

#### LUFTHANSA'S

Miles and More frequent flyer scheme is more competitive with the chance to earn mileage when flying British Midland and Scandinavian Airlines. Details: 0800 616811.

## THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



## MONET'S GARDEN AND NORMANDY

3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £239 PER PERSON  
DEPARTING 12, 19, 26 APRIL 1996

The historic town of Rouen, ancient capital of Normandy, provides the base for this holiday which includes a visit to Monet's garden at Giverny. The lovingly-tended gardens, Japanese bridge and water lily pond were a favourite source of inspiration for the painter and are depicted in many of his masterpieces. There is also a visit to Gailion with its renaissance castle and the Gaillard Chateau at Les Andelys, built by Richard the Lionheart, plus a trip to a local calvados producer. An optional excursion is available to the coastal resort of Trouville and to view the famous tapestry at Bayeux.

### THE HOLIDAY PRICE INCLUDES

- Executive coaching from selected departure points to Normandy and throughout the holiday.
- Channel crossings between Dover and Calais.
- Three nights accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Rouen.
- Buffet breakfast, dinner on arrival and a farewell dinner.
- Excursion to Gailion, Les Andelys and Monet's garden at Giverny.
- Visit to a calvados producer.
- Services of a tour manager.

### Monet's Garden & Normandy Offer

Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

If you do not wish to receive further information from Times Newspapers or companies specially selected by us, please tick this box. ☐ YES ☐ NO

## I.N.D.I.A

New Brochure out 9 APRIL 1996  
★ It'll be worth waiting for ★ You could save loads of ££££!

GOA from £279 KERALA from £279

Accommodation hand-picked to suit all needs - from the small and cosy family run Sea Shell Inn, where Shelly & Theresa will be your hosts, to the Hermitage - a luxury resort overlooking some of the finest beaches in Goa.

Flights depart Gatwick every Friday evening with Caledonian Airways Widebody Boeing 747 offering you an optional upgrade to Highland First Class (Club Class comfort & service) from an additional £245 per person each way.

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HOLIDAYS  
ABTA V5319 AITO ATOL 2550 (Holidays Bookable through ABTA travel agents)



## Britain fail to advertise Olympic prospects

6	THE CHEESE BARRON 12 S Melior 5-11-2	Chris Webb
7	INDIAN CROWN 27 N Thomson 6-10-11	I Lamm
8	SOMMAURA 361P P Wegmann 6-10-11	S Fowle
9	NOT GUILTY 25 H Oliver 4-10-8	Jacqui O



















# Absence makes the heart grow acceptable

Each year my resistance to *Hearts of Gold* (BBC1) grows a little less. As another 12 months pass in which I have done nothing grand and certainly nothing heroic, my admiration for the gallant band who have increased once again. But let me be clear: this twin-track transformation is gradual, very gradual. At current rates, I calculate that I won't start really enjoying this sickly sweet celebration of good deeds until I am 147 years old. Either that, or I feel certain I will be around — wearing something imprudently short and fierce.

She was similarly equipped last night, as she kicked off the series where equal helpings of admiration and nausea have become very much the norm. But there was nothing "normal" about the way it began. Having swapped her suit for a pair of generously cut plastic over-investors, Rantzen appeared to

be engaged in an unspeakable act with a gentleman in a golf bunker. All totally innocent — pause for laughter — we were assured, practising her swing don'tcha know, but those of us reared on a diet of cheap laughs at the expense of misshapen vegetables knew better. My how we laughed.

And my how La Rantzen was enjoying herself. She wiggled her bottom playfully and begged imploringly: "Once more, once more!" Our gallant, unsuspecting, life-saving, lorry driver (let it be said) bravely stepped forward and assumed the position again. Now this was brave, my heroic stuff. I was about to rush forward and pin a small piece of blue ribbon with a little gold heart on him myself.

Then suddenly I remembered — this wasn't the heroic act, this was the ruse — the ruse which no self-respecting light entertainment show (*This is Your Life*, *Surprise Surprise* and anything with Jere-

my Ruddle or Noel Edmonds) is currently without. "Have you heard of a programme called *Hearts of Gold*?" asked Rantzen at regular intervals. "No," I shouted. "Just say no." But each time the heroic victim's response was the same — a shrug, a baleful look skyward and a weary "yes". Gotcha, I believe is the technical term.

Some of the ruses were hideously complicated, which allowed Carol Smille (wearing something fashionably knee-length and sky blue) to step smugly forward and say "this was not as easy as it sounds" at similarly regular intervals. It also led to me spending several minutes under the impression that it was Mr Motivator who had spent three months in a coma. What an awful thought.

But, three times a night, order is restored. Those who have done the life-saving sit on one side of the

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

sofa, those whose lives had been saved sit on the other. The result is an awful lot of emotion. The heroes are all modesty, horribly embarrassed by the fuss. Those they rescued are all gratitude and enormous smiles. The means may be manipulative, the programme may be 15 minutes too long, but I defy anyone not to be moved by the sight of two burly lorry-drivers sharing a tearful cuddle. Still, as

long as they keep serving up the excruciating bits in-between I think I can hold out for another decade or seven.

If the Mr UK competition did not exist, there would not be long before a producer from *Modern Times* (BBC2) came along and invented it. On paper it looked perfect, a sign of our egalitarian, role-reversed times — lots of bronzed male bodies parading in front of drooling, cheering women. In reality, as producer Helena Appio discovered, it was definitely a sock or two short of a well-filled thong.

What are they going to do? asked a disbelieving and bitter Ann Sidney (Miss World 1964). "Prance down the planks in G-strings?" Yup, that was pretty much it — which left Appio with a lot of time to fill.

Round and round the went in ever diminishing interviews —

another knucklehead (I mean contestant, not organiser), Frank Warren, Judith Chalmers. But it's a reliable rule of documentary-making thumb that when the interviewee talking most sense is Michael Winner, you know you are in trouble.

Appio's efforts to fill the gaps between the defiantly uninteresting badinage of the contestants merely served as a reminder that there were better documentaries to be made. What happens to former Miss Worlds, for instance, or the life and times of the incredible and indestructible Morley.

For the former she was half-way there already, with a well chosen trio of beauty queens — the cynical Reina Powell (Miss World 1966) and game for a laugh former Miss Puerto Rico (Miss World 1975). "It changed completely my life," said

the winsome Wilmetta. She was right — she married Bruce Forsyth.

For anyone thinking of tackling the Morley story, here is a tip. Eric badly needs a pair of mid-calf socks. He may know a well-turned ankle when he sees one, but his own night's interviews revealed he certainly does not possess them.

Finally, Pete McCarthy brought *Travelog* (Channel 4) to a close with the sort of "holiday" I could identify with. He was ill, he was miserable and he was reluctantly hopping around Laos in an elderly Russian helicopter. But unlike me in such situations, he had not quite lost his sense of humour. Afflicted with both bronchitis and Luan Prabang belly, he ventured bravely forth in a motorised rickshaw, or tuk-tuk, "named after the cough it induces in passengers as they ingest large quantities of road". A heart of gold is already on its way.

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (37490)  
**9.00am BBC Breakfast News** (34361)  
**9.00 News Extra** (34361) 9.20  
**Cartoon Cook's Week** (34361) 9.20  
**9.45 Kilroy** (34361) 9.50 **Good Morning** (34361)

**12.00 News** (34361) and weather (285935)  
**12.05pm Movie Magic** (34361) 12.30  
**Going for a Song** (34361)

**1.00pm One O'Clock News** (34361) and weather (44848)

**1.30 Regional News and weather** (2512747)

**1.40 Neighbours** (34361) (34462363)  
**2.00 Peckham** (34361) (3780372)

**2.55 Racing from Aintree** Live coverage of the 3.10 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is on BBC2 (34361)

**4.00 The Moph Files** (3446225) 4.10  
**Highlander** (34361) (5734157) 4.35  
**The Gentle from Down Under** (34361) (2564664) 5.00 **Newsworld** (34361) (3313916) 5.10 **Grange Hill** (34361) (1225864)

**5.25 Neighbours** (34361) (34462363)

**6.00pm One O'Clock News** (34361) and weather (799)

**6.30 Regional News** (34361) (34462363)

**7.00 Top of the Pops** (34361) (34361)

**7.30 EastEnders** (34361) (34361)

**8.00 Wildlife on One** (34361) (34361)

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**10.20pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**10.25pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**10.30pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

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**10.50pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**10.55pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**11.00pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**11.05pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**11.10pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

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**11.40pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**11.45pm See Hear Breakfast News** (34361) and weather (285935)

**3D TV, 7.30pm**  
Two former Church of England priests have gone freelance and the Church is not pleased. The Rev Jonathan Blake charges an hourly rate for baptisms, weddings and funerals, promotes himself in a glossy brochure and advertises in *Vogue*. He is happy to marry divorced people, gay couples and even atheists. Like Blake, the Rev Sturge Ariss left the Church after his marriage broke up. Like Blake, he insists he is still a priest. Though he says he has no more authority than a street-of-doctor. Unashamed, Ariss continues to conduct baptisms and marriages, waiving a fee and suggesting only a voluntary donation. His charges for funerals are below the usual rate. The Church accuses him of undercutting it. He says he is not a priest, but a "priest" in the eyes of his clients. Whether these mavericks are unique or part of a wider trend is not revealed.

**Africa Express Channel 4, 8.00pm**  
South Africa may be under black majority rule but the white minority is still in business. The programme highlights the activities of Executive Outcomes, a company based in Angola and Sierra Leone, studying "military advisers" to support the government side in the civil war. The company says it is promoting stability in these countries, but the South African authorities want to curtail its activities. The second report comes from Eritrea, which is trying to persuade a traditionally pacifist population to switch to fish, of which there is plenty off the Red Sea coast. The Eritreans are unenthusiastic. The final film shows how interest from the West has sparked a revival of Zimbabwe's important indigenous musical instrument, the mbira.

**Reputations: Muhammad Ali BBC2, 9.00pm**  
Unlike other programmes in this series, this one offers no new slant or theory. What it does is to show how the various sides of Muhammad Ali, boxer, Muslim convert and opponent of the Vietnam War, were intertwined. His public humiliation of Floyd Patterson and Ernie Terrell, two opponents who would not use his Muslim name, was shameful, a flip-side to the arrogance which helped to make him one of the best heavyweight champions. His allegiance to the Nation of Islam split the black civil rights movement. His refusal to fight in Vietnam was unappreciated by black soldiers who served alongside him. Ali's sport and politics could not be separated, however much admirers of his sleek and fluent ringcraft wished they could have been.

**Undercover Britain: Football Tots Channel 4, 9.00pm**  
A football fan, Gary Thompson, takes his children to Manchester United's training ground, Old Trafford, and discovers how selling £1 seats for £100. After the Taylor inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, touring was made a criminal offence. Thompson's report suggests that the law is no deterrent. Even when offenders are charged, the fines are laughably small. The programme is illuminating as far as it goes. By posing as a fan Thompson is able to penetrate to the heart of the business and talk to the big operators. He does not, however, manage to track down the sources of the tickets, which are believed to lie with the club. But when he approaches United he gets a terse "no comment" from the club's solicitor.

**Jeff Bridges in Fearless (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)**  
The final Ford of China (1931) 1.00 **Around the World in 80 Days** (1988) 1.30 **Great Train Robbery** (1936) 1.50 **Great Train Robbery** (1936) 1.50 **Great Train Robbery** (1936) 1.50

**THE HISTORY CHANNEL**  
1.00pm **The Great Days of the Century** (1988) 1.00 **Memories of 1988** (1988) 1.00 **Memories of 1988** (1988) 1.00

**THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**  
1.00pm **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (1988) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (1988) 1.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (1988) 1.00

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## Illegal approach verdict upheld

United must  
pay fine  
for poaching

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER UNITED have failed in their appeal against a fine of £20,000 imposed last month, when they were found guilty of an illegal approach to David Brown, a 16-year-old player who was on schoolboy forms with Oldham Athletic. The original decision was upheld by a Football Association appeals panel yesterday and United were ordered to pay further costs.

It is a decision that has angered the club and Maurice Watkins, a Manchester United director and the club's solicitor, has called for an overhaul of the rules. His demand is likely to be met, with the FA Premier League revealing plans last night to review the statutes concerning young players. Changes could be made within the next two months.

Watkins believes that the rules are too ambiguous and he argued that the FA's verdict that United were guilty of poaching could not be made with any conviction. "The FA representative at the appeal said the same thing as we did," Watkins said. "He argued he had no alternative but to apply the rule to the letter, but admitted the rule was ambiguous, and hoped it would be clarified."

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham, long before Manchester United

made their approach. It was, he said, a clear indication that the rules needed changing. "There is absolutely no suggestion of any wrongdoing by United, and yet we have been found guilty. There is a lacuna within the rules which prevents the player from talking to other clubs, even when he doesn't want to stay with his original club."

"We now believe that the rules should be clarified because they are a mess. We hope that will be done within the next few months." A spokesman for the FA confirmed that the rules will be examined by the Premier

League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed redrafted regulations, United would have been innocent.

Blackburn Rovers took their spending under Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, beyond the £40 million mark when they agreed a £1 million transfer fee for Gary Croft, the Grimsby Town left back. Croft, an England Under-21 international, travelled to Ewood Park for talks yesterday and will complete his move this morning. Croft worked with Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, while he was on international duty.

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham, long before Manchester United

Alan Shearer, who was forced to withdraw from the England squad to face Bulgaria last night because of a groin injury, is expected to return to action for Blackburn on Saturday. Shearer's swift return will allay fears that the injury has put in doubt his prospects of appearing in the European championship. "We certainly don't see it as a long-term problem," Tony Parks, the Blackburn assistant manager, said.

Gary Pallister, however, is unlikely to play again this season. That could jeopardise the Manchester United central defender's chance of appearing for England in the finals in June.

Bolton Wanderers have signed Scott Taylor, the Millwall forward, for an initial fee of £150,000. The 19-year-old has not yet completed a full season in the Endleigh Insurance League with the London club. Preston North End have agreed to pay a club record fee of £200,000 for Gary Bennett, the Tranmere Rovers forward.

Faustino Asprilla, the Newcastle United striker, was yesterday named in the Colombia team to play Bolivia in Medellin today after apologising to Hernan Dario Gomez, the coach, for arriving nine hours late at the side's headquarters. Asprilla said he was delayed for family reasons.

Bournemouth face a winding-up order brought by the Customs and Excise over an unpaid VAT bill of almost £200,000. The second division club, already around £2 million in debt, has to find the money by Monday.

Ken Gardiner, the Bournemouth chairman, said yesterday: "This is not life-threatening but it is a problem we shall need to overcome. I cannot see us selling a player before the transfer deadline [today], so it looks like we shall sit as a board of directors on Friday to discuss other ways of sorting this out. But arrangements are in hand to solve the problem."



Andre Agassi, seen here during his straight-sets win over the Canadian, Sebastian Lareau, at the Lipton championships in Florida yesterday, called for the world tennis schedule to be reduced from the present 83 events over 48 weeks to give players a break. He said that the pressure was becoming too intense and suggested that the season might close after the US Open in September. "We don't have an off season," the

world No 3 added. "It makes no sense." Agassi's plea was supported by his countrymen, Pete Sampras, the world No 2, and Jim Courier. All three, together with Michael Chang, chose to drop out of the United States Davis Cup tie in April, blaming schedule pressure. "There are too many tournaments," Agassi said. "If you add the Davis Cup, it becomes too much." Americans on song, page 45

## Dunhill Cup may switch to July

By A CORRESPONDENT

ST ANDREWS, perhaps the most famous golf course in the world, could be about to lose the Alfred Dunhill Cup — unless the event is switched from its usual autumn date to one in July.

The world's leading international team competition — it is Europe's richest tournament after the Open Championship — has been played over the Old Course since its inauguration in 1985.

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been eager to switch the tournament because

of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the International

Players ready for opening test ..... 45  
Webb wonders at rapid rise ..... 45  
Roe seeks to end decline ..... 45

al Management Group, Dunhill and the European tour to hold the tournament from October 10 to 13 this year. However, it was seen only as buying time until a new three-year contract could be ironed out.

Nicky James, the trust general manager,

said yesterday: "We have been told that the tournament will be held in July in future, so we have to decide whether the switch of dates is acceptable."

Last October, the Dunhill Cup attracted around 35,000 spectators, but that figure could easily be trebled if the event were switched to July. The organisers recognise, however, that it will not be possible to hold the event at St Andrews during July in a year when the Open Championship is played over the Old Course.

Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday that because of the cold weather in October "it was getting increasingly difficult to get the star players."

Leading players may, however, regard the event as a distraction as they build up for the Open, which is traditionally held the third week in July.

## Kiriakov finds spies in the camp

Russell Kempson on undercover efforts  
to help a Bulgarian into the Premiership

To many in Britain, especially those with long memories, Bulgaria is no more than a distant land that has a penchant for poison-tipped umbrellas — to be used, occasionally, to dispose of those that displease it. A Bulgarian abroad, still, conjures images of clandestine meetings in the dead of night, a sort of James Bondski without the pretty female adornments.

Ilian Kiriakov, 28, is no shady East European, bearing brooches of water-pistols — "I have other things as well, trust me" — and promises of a good deal as long as the payment is in dollars. Kiriakov is a professional footballer and was in England this week with Bulgaria for their international match at Wembley last night.

He has, though, a colourful background. Not quite spy-thriller status, perhaps, but with sufficient intrigue to monitor closely his progress. He is over here, primarily, to

hawk his wares — himself — to the highest bidder. Kiriakov, like self-respecting footballers the world over, wants to play in England.

"He is small but very agile," a source from Sofia said. "He is a personal marker, you know? He is exceptional." Apparently, he upset Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers midfielder player, when he played against him for Anorthosis Famagusta, his club in Cyprus, in the preliminary round of the European Cup this season.

Kiriakov's credentials are impressive, mildly. He played in Bulgaria, for CSKA Sofia, and Spain, for Deportivo La Coruña and Merida, before settling in Cyprus and has won 51 international caps.

Times are hard, though, and Anorthosis are trying to cash in on their most market-

able asset, preferably before the transfer deadline today for FA Carling Premiership clubs. Thus, Paul Lenas, Kiriakov's Greek agent, who is based in Watford, naturally, is moving with stealth and speed.

"I think the fee we are looking for is around £1 million," Lenas said. "I have approached several Premiership clubs, officially, of course, and they have expressed interest."

Yet who are these mystery clubs? A mole in Sofia suggested Wimbledon, Rangers — the Glasgow variety — or Real Betis, of Spain. "Not the big clubs in the Premiership, more middle of the range," Lenas said. "Not Rangers, but Celtic once showed an interest."

What about Queens Park Rangers? "I think they are out

of money," he said. Wimbledon? "It is a matter of financing. They would probably have to sell Dean Holdsworth first." Who is it then? "I am talking to a manager tonight. Then I will know more."

Mole II, in England, later revealed that Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers could be nearer the mark. With two Yugoslavs, a Belgian and a Dutchman in his ranks, David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is not averse to imported talent.

Bulgarians in English football have not enjoyed the best of success this season. Bobby Mihailov, the Reading goalkeeper, and Bonitcho Guentchev, the Luton Town striker, are engaged in relegation struggles in the Endleigh Insurance League first division. Perhaps Kiriakov should look elsewhere for future employment. Anybody know a good umbrella shop?

Laboratory  
defends  
handling of  
Modahl  
specimen

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Lisbon laboratory at the centre of the controversy over Diane Modahl's drug test yesterday defended its handling of the British runner's urine sample. Professor Lesseps Reys, the scientific director, said the laboratory had "rigorously followed regulations and was always available to clear up the truth".

He was speaking after Modahl had been cleared on Monday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of any offence after failing a drugs test in Portugal in June 1995.

The IAAF council expressed "serious concern" over the way the Lisbon laboratory dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test, which "could have provided a final resolution of this matter".

However, Reys said that accredited laboratories are required only to conduct a test on the A sample and counter-test on the B sample.

He said: "Under regulations, a third test, which was not foreseen, would have required a re-sealing of the sample in proper conditions. This re-sealing was not solicited by any of the experts present at the counter-test, including those representing the athlete."

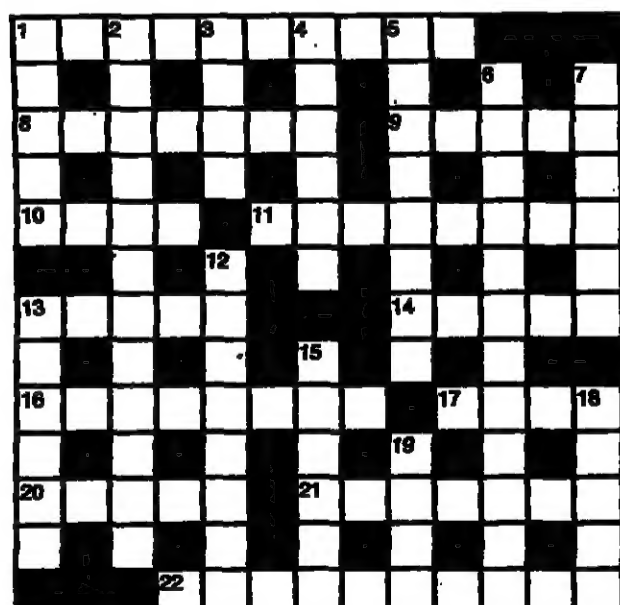
He confirmed that the remainder of the B sample was not sufficient in quantity for a further test and added that the laboratory would offer it for further scientific investigation but not for a third analysis.

It was only after the second test had confirmed the exceptional testosterone-epitestosterone (T/E) ratio that the two hearings of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) were held.

At the second of these, Modahl's advisers convinced the BAF panel that, because the sample had become contaminated after being left unrefrigerated after collection, the T/E ratio had been altered.

A third, different, test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

□ Anne Chagnaud, the French long-distance swimmer, has had a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test overturned on appeal. Chagnaud tested positive for etilphrine in January 1995.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORDNo 741 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND

## ACROSS

- 1 React with fierce anger (3,2,5)
- 8 Unofficial (strike) (7); various animals (4,3)
- 9 Deal with: unexpected pleasure (5)
- 10 Spoil completely (4)
- 11 Of Spanish origin (8)
- 13 Town; school; two games (5)
- 14 Impudent; mildly indecent (5)
- 16 (Serious personal) danger (8)
- 17 Care; intellect (4)
- 20 Poem (eg Inferno) subdivision (5)
- 21 Descriptive language; carvings (7)
- 22 German leather shorts (10)

## DOWN

- 1 Shrink fearfully (5)
- 2 Subject for discussion (7,5)
- 3 Quarrel; bushel; eat like bird (4)
- 4 Be too clever for (6)
- 5 You, me and this share secret (8)
- 6 Be in dead earnest (4,8)
- 7 Adhesive; difficult (situation) (6)
- 12 Maple, has propeller seeds (8)
- 13 Refuse to accept (6)
- 15 Recommend (6)
- 18 Senior (member of body) (5)
- 19 Track, course (4)

## PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

## SOLUTION TO NO 740

ACROSS: 1 Musical, 5 Twig, 9 Curie, 10 Chocolate, 11 Maitre d'hôtel, 12 Demure, 13 Broom, 16 Folding money, 19 Maudlin, 20 Gusto, 21 Dusk, 22 Abolard.  
DOWN: 1 Much, 2 Sarcasm, 3 Chesterfield, 4 Lackey, 6 Whist, 7 Grenlin, 8 Mother tongue, 12 Defamed, 14 Chelsea, 15 Agenda, 17 Louis, 18 Lord.

MORSE

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impressive thing  
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